

Commander Battle

and the ATOMIC SUB

IT'S AN
H-BOMB
FROM THE
MOON!



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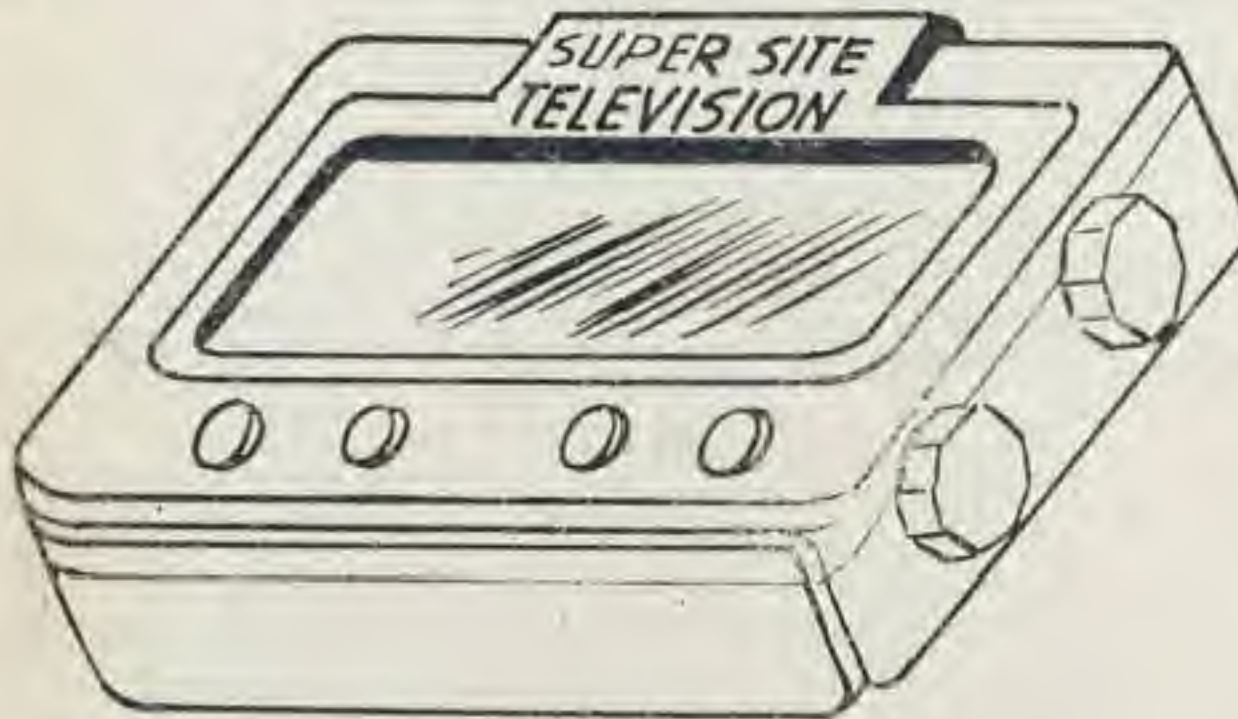
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6. Howdy Doody in the Side Show
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THE MOON, ALWAYS WITH US--FAMED IN SONG AND STORY! HAVEN'T YOU EVER STARED HARD AT IT, WONDERING--DREAMING? BUT IN YOUR WILDEST DREAM, YOU NEVER ENVISIONED IT AS A **KILLER**--A MIGHTY SILVER SPHERE FROM WHICH **DEATH** COULD STREAM! HERE'S A TENSE, THRILL-PACKED TALE OF A DREAD CHALLENGE FROM OUT OF SPACE--A CHALLENGE MET BY THE DAUNTLESS COURAGE OF THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS**! IF IT'S FAST-PACED EXCITEMENT YOU'RE AFTER, ALL ABOARD FOR A--

JOURNEY to the MOON!

with
**THE ATOMIC
COMMANDOS!**



COMMANDER BILL BATTLE



"DOC" BLAKE



"CHAMP" RUGGLES

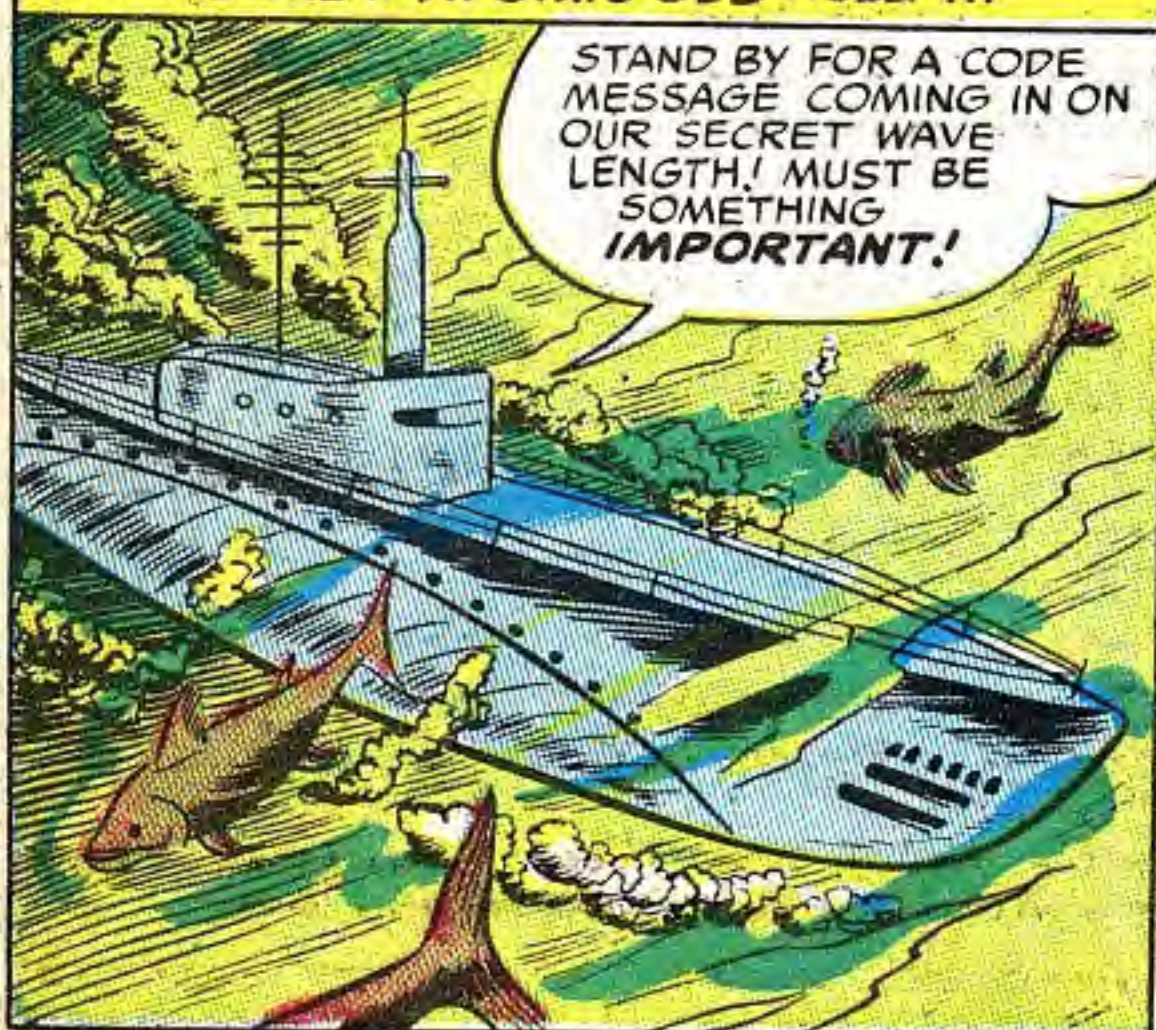


TONY GARDELLO

AND...



WHAT BETTER PLACE TO OPEN OUR GRIPPING STORY THAN ON SUB-SURFACE MANEUVERS WITH THE GREAT **ATOMIC SUB** ITSELF...



STAND BY FOR A CODE MESSAGE COMING IN ON OUR SECRET WAVE LENGTH! MUST BE SOMETHING **IMPORTANT!**

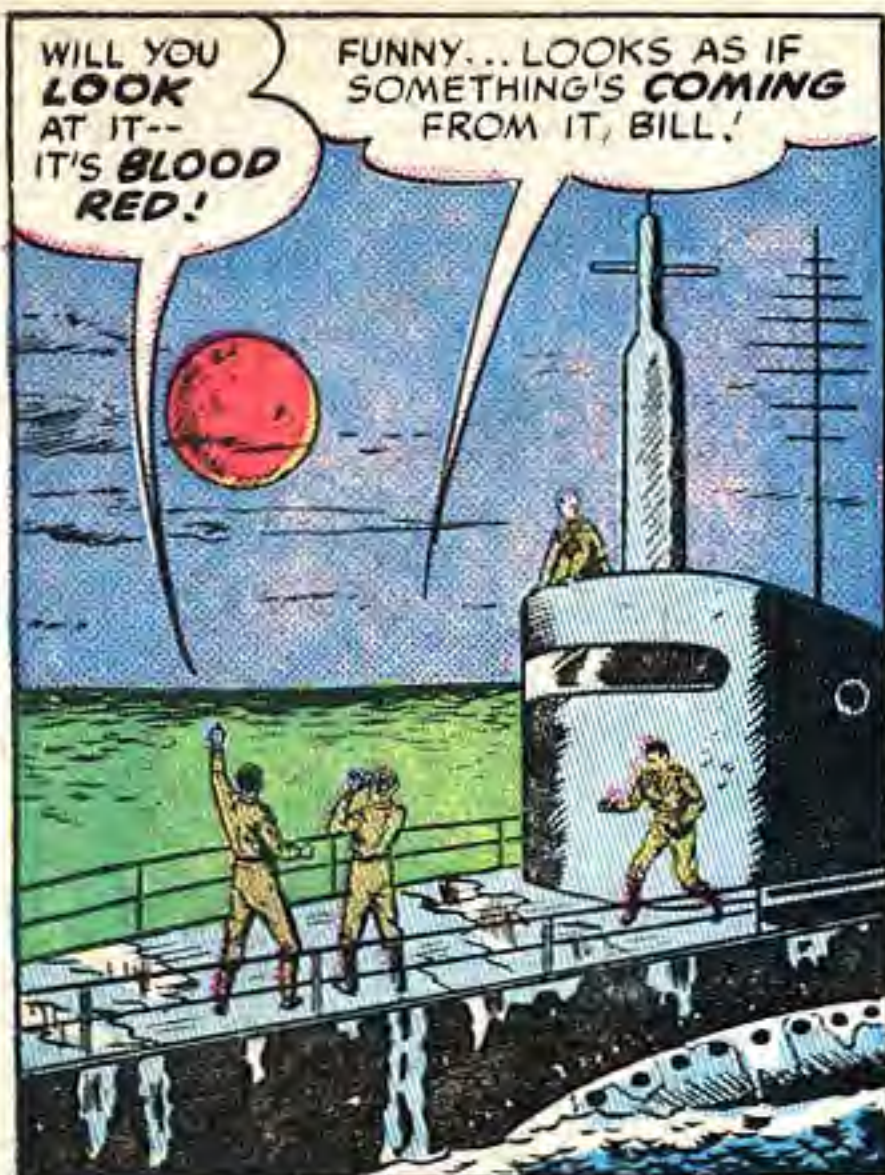
WELL, I'LL BE--! IT'S FROM **WASHINGTON**--ABOUT THE **MOON!** THE COLOR'S CHANGING--AND THEY SUSPECT SOMETHING'S **HAPPENING** UP THERE! WE'RE TO REPORT BACK IMMEDIATELY!

HMMM...THE MOON'S UP BY NOW! LET'S SURFACE AND SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!



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WILL YOU **LOOK** AT IT-- IT'S **BLOOD RED!**

FUNNY... LOOKS AS IF SOMETHING'S **COMING** FROM IT, BILL!



YES, SOMETHING WAS COMING FROM THE MOON! IT LOOKED LIKE A SHOWER OF METEORS HEADED EARTHWARD---



HOLY SMOKE, IT-- IT'S AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION!

THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS BROUGHT BACK THIS FIRST-HAND REPORT TO WASHINGTON--WHERE, AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL---

THERE WASN'T THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT IN THE WORLD! IT WAS AN ATOMIC WEAPON--LAUNCHED FROM THE **MOON!**

IT HAD TO COME SOONER OR LATER! FOR TEN YEARS, MILITARY MEN HAVE REALIZED THAT THE FIRST NATION THAT COULD GAIN CONTROL OVER THE MOON COULD USE IT TO DOMINATE THE EARTH FROM OUT IN SPACE--AND THIS LOOKS LIKE THE **FIRST STEP!**



I SEE...WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT IS THAT THE **RUSSIANS** MUST HAVE GOTTEN THERE... AND ARE ALREADY CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS ON LAUNCHING ATTACKS AGAINST US! MR. SECRETARY, THIS IS **YOUR** PROVINCE--HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES STAND ON ROCKETS THAT CAN CHALLENGE THE SOVIET'S BEACH-HEAD ON THE MOON?

WE'VE MADE STRIDES WITH DEVICES THAT'LL OUTPERFORM ANY--**SOON!** TROUBLE IS THEY'RE NOT **READY** YET, AND WE STILL CAN'T REACH THE MOON! WE NEED **TIME--** THE ONE THING WE HAVEN'T GOT!



HOW TO REACH THE MOON--HOW TO CHALLENGE RUSSIA'S DOMINATION? IT WAS THEN THAT COMMANDER BILL BATTLE CAME UP WITH A STUNNING SUGGESTION---

THIS MAY SOUND OFF-BEAM--BUT IF WE COULD USE THE **ATOMIC SUBMARINE** TO BORE THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, AS WE DID, CAN'T WE GO **FURTHER?** RE-MEMBER, THE SUB'S **TOUGH--**IT'S CAPABLE OF LIMITLESS

POWER AND SPEED THROUGH ATOMIC DRIVE! **WHY CAN'T WE FIT IT OUT AS A ROCKET--AND TAKE IT TO THE MOON?**



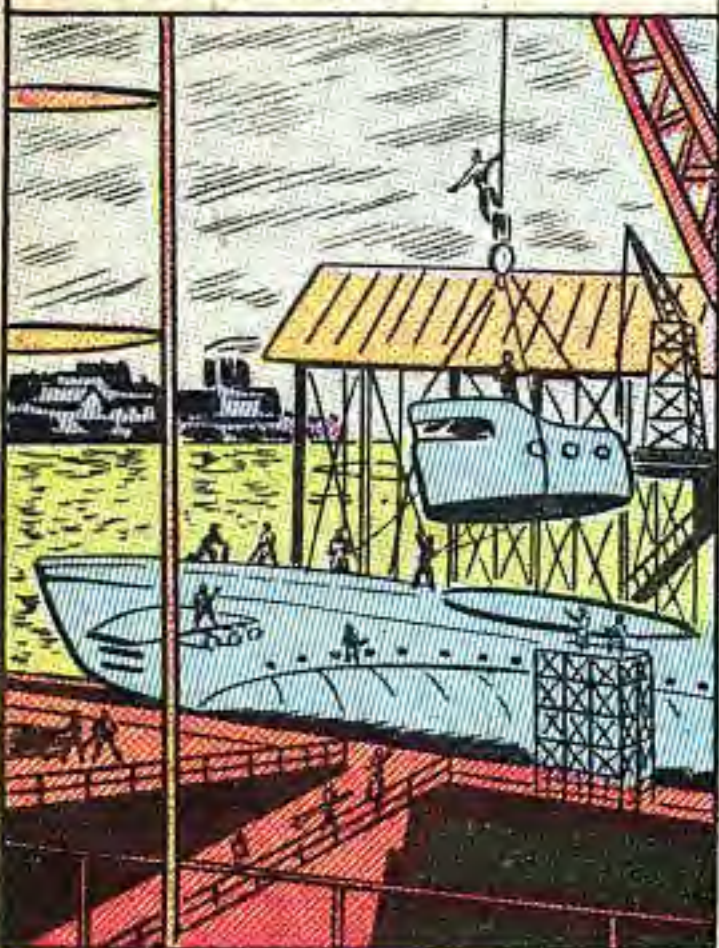
IT WAS A DARING, ALMOST A CRAZY PLAN, BUT IT CAUGHT ON LIKE WILDFIRE, GATHERED MOMENTUM--

IT'S FEASIBLE, GENTLEMEN--**IT CAN BE DONE!** I'VE EXPERIMENTED WITH A NEW TYPE OF JET PROPULSION WITH AN ATOMIC MOTIVATOR--AND THE SUB'S METALLIC COATING WILL ALLOW TERRIFIC SPEEDS IN SPACE WITHOUT BURNING UP! GIVE US A FEW WEEKS FOR THE NECESSARY ALTERATIONS, THAT'S ALL!

I THINK WE'RE IN AGREEMENT, GENTLEMEN! **ONCE AGAIN-- WE TRUST OUR FATE TO THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS!**



AND SO TRAINED ENGINEERS AND WORKERS TOOK OVER, WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK--AND THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE BECAME AN ATOMIC ROCKET---



THE WORK WAS ALMOST COMPLETE--A BRIEFING SESSION WAS BEING HELD--WHEN--

ER--EXCUSE ME, COMMANDER BATTLE--BUT THERE'S A VISITOR HERE--

YOU **KNOW** THIS IS OFF LIMITS FOR VISITORS! WHOEVER HE IS--**THROW HIM OUT!**



ER--HE'S NOT THE **USUAL** TYPE OF CRANK--NOT EXACTLY THE KIND I'M USED TO THROWING OUT! HE INSISTS HE'S GOTTA SEE YA--

OKAY, SHOW HIM IN--BUT WATCH ME GET RID OF HIM IN A **HURRY!**



IT WAS THEIR FIRST SIGHT OF HIM--THIS "VISITOR"--

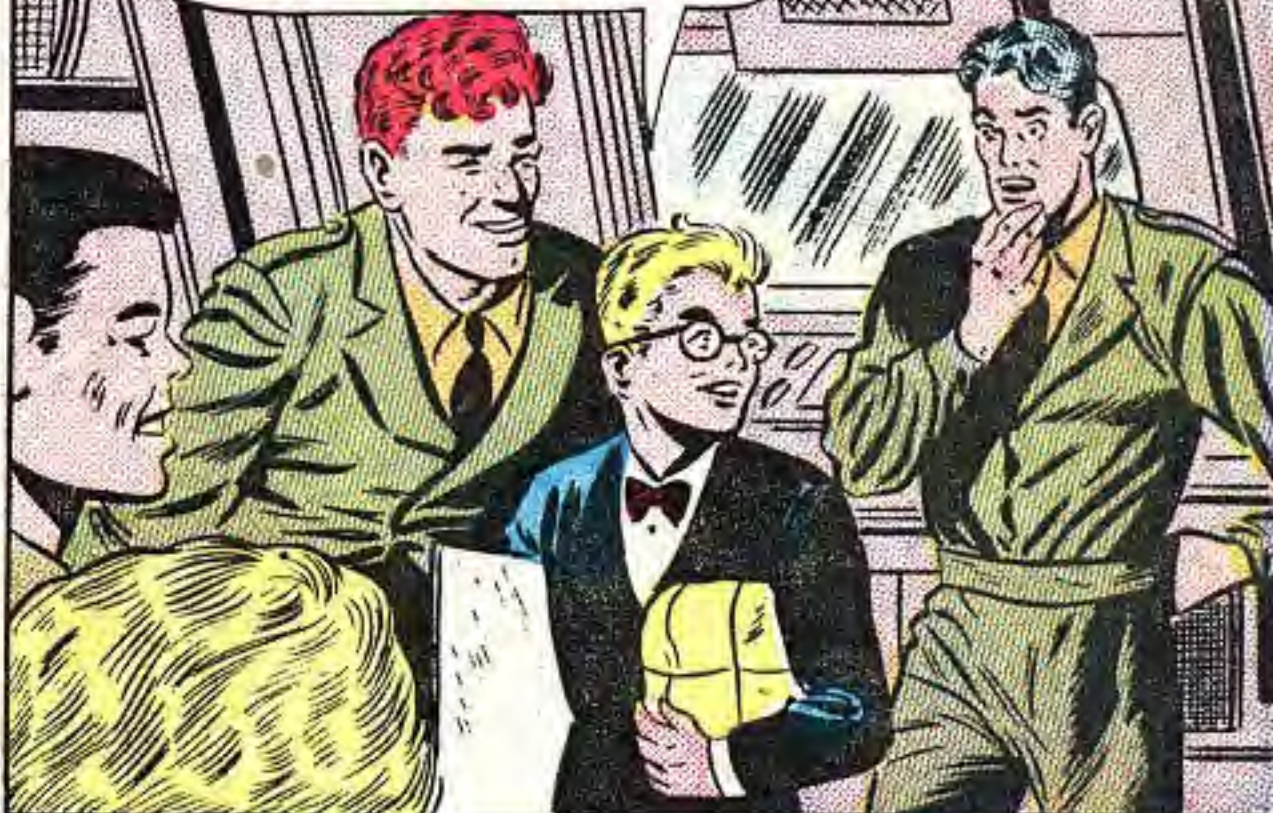
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!

WHAT THE---! HEY, WHAT IS THIS--A **KINDERGARTEN?**



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF--**M. JONATHAN FLINT**-- YOU MAY KNOW ME AS ONE OF THE **QUIZ KIDS!** SINCE I FEEL I QUALIFY AS AN ATOMIC COMMANDO, I'VE COME TO **JOIN** YOUR LITTLE GROUP--IN LINE WITH COMMANDER BATTLE'S PROMISE!

ME? I PROMISED? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE **TALKING** ABOUT!



I HAVE WHAT I CONSIDER A GENUINE CONTRIBUTION TO OFFER! IT'S RIGHT HERE--LET ME SHOW IT TO YOU!

OH-OH! WHY CAN'T THEY BE MORE CAREFUL WITH THAT ARMED SERVICES PUBLICITY THEY GIVE OUT? NOW THE POOR KID THINKS--

COMMANDER BILL BATTLE SAYS--
BE A REAL AMERICAN!
YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

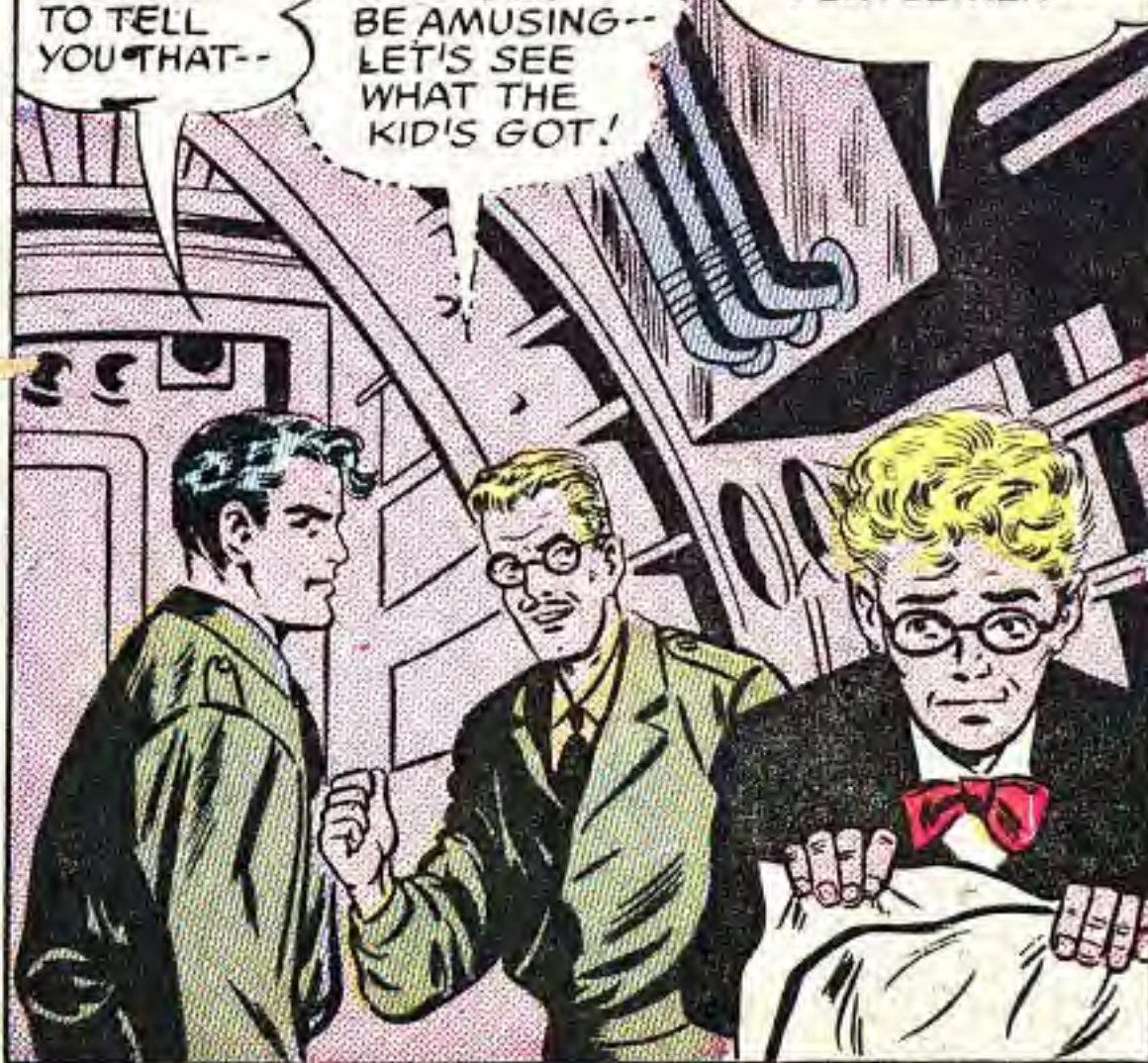
REMEMBER, BOYS-- YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICA'S WELFARE MAY MAKE YOU A **JUNIOR ATOMIC COMMANDO!**



ER--MAYBE I OUGHT TO TELL YOU THAT--

SH-HH! THIS MAY BE AMUSING--LET'S SEE WHAT THE KID'S GOT!

IN JUST A MOMENT, GENTLEMEN--





(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)





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THERE WASN'T ANY DOUBT OF JONNIE'S POPULARITY NOW! BUT THIS WAS THE ATOMIC SUB-- THESE WERE THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS--AND THERE JUST WASN'T ANY ROOM FOR A BOY! REGRETFULLY, THEY EXPLAINED--

IT--IT ISN'T THAT WE WOULDN'T WANT YOU--PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND! BUT OUR MISSIONS ARE DANGEROUS ONES--IT WOULD BE CRIMINAL TO EVEN CONSIDER A YOUNGSTER--- I--I SEE--

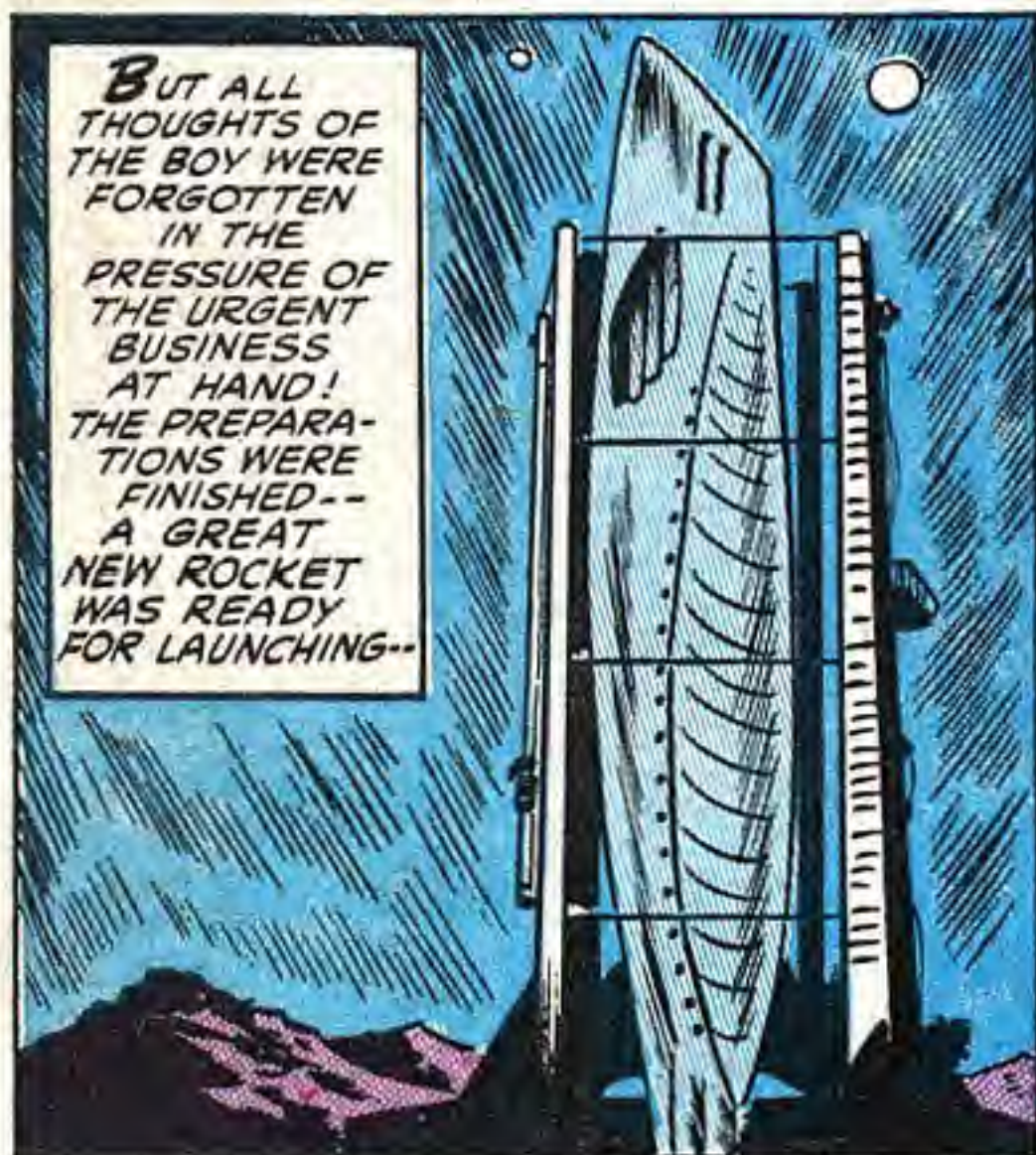


GOSHDARNIT... WHY DO WE HAVE TO BREAK A POOR KID'S HEART LIKE THAT?

HE LEFT HIS TELEPATHY GADGET... BETTER PUT IT AWAY SAFELY FOR HIM UNTIL HE CALLS FOR IT! IT'S QUITE A THING!...



BUT ALL THOUGHTS OF THE BOY WERE FORGOTTEN IN THE PRESSURE OF THE URGENT BUSINESS AT HAND! THE PREPARATIONS WERE FINISHED-- A GREAT NEW ROCKET WAS READY FOR LAUNCHING--



NOW THE TIME WAS AT HAND! AHEAD LAY THE MOST PERILOUS JOURNEY IN THE ANNALS OF MANKIND! THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS WERE ABOARD...THE CONTROLS WERE ZEROED ON THEIR DISTANT OBJECTIVE! CONTACT --TAKEOFF! DESTINATION: THE MOON!



THROUGH THE FRIGID, EMPTY REACHES OF SPACE AT A SPEED NEVER BEFORE KNOWN--FLASHING PAST METEORS WITH THE HOWL OF A THOUSAND BANSHEES--

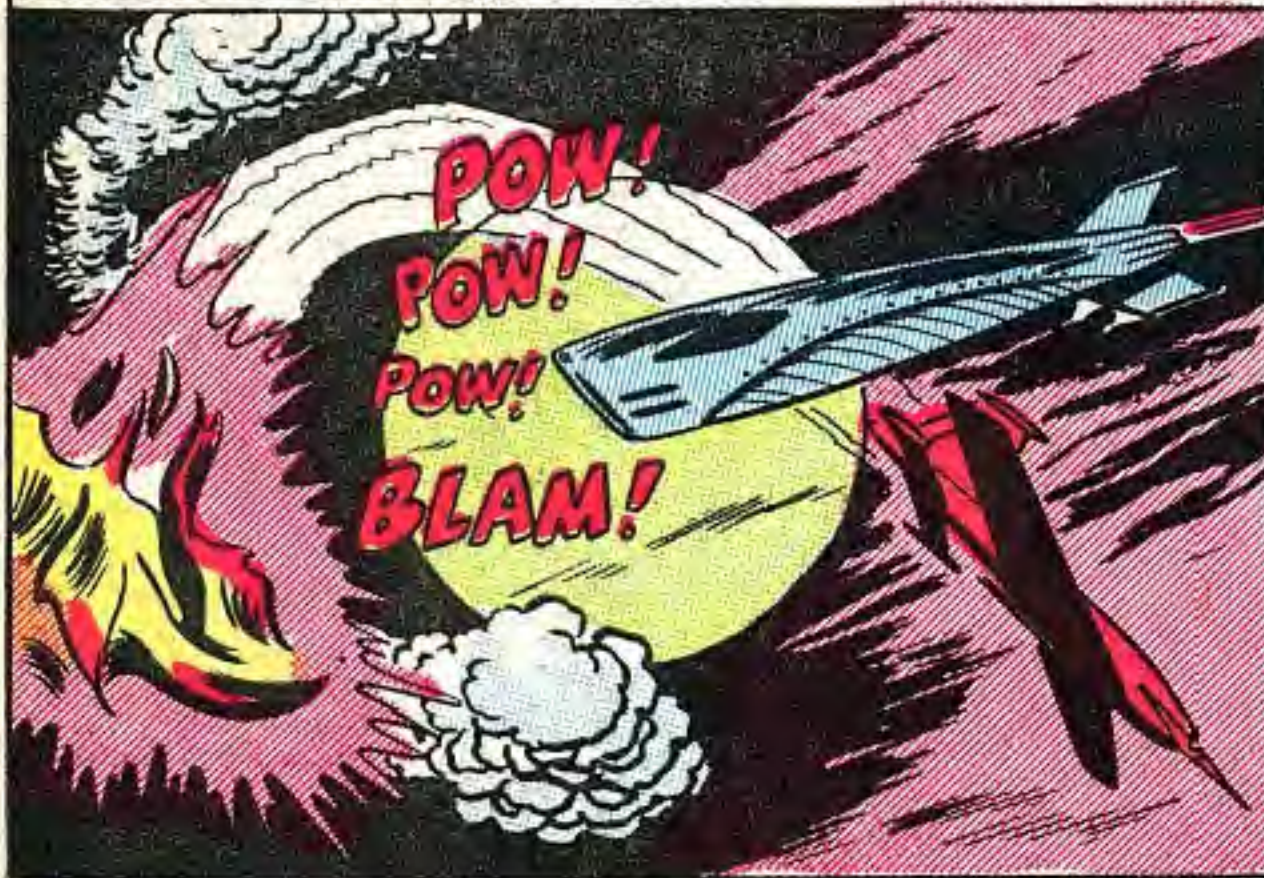
ONLY ATOMIC ENGINES COULD MANAGE A SPEED LIKE THIS! IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE WE ENTER THE MOON'S ATMOSPHERE!

YEAH-- AN' IT'LL BE JUST TOO BAD FOR US IF THE RUSSIANS SIGHT US!

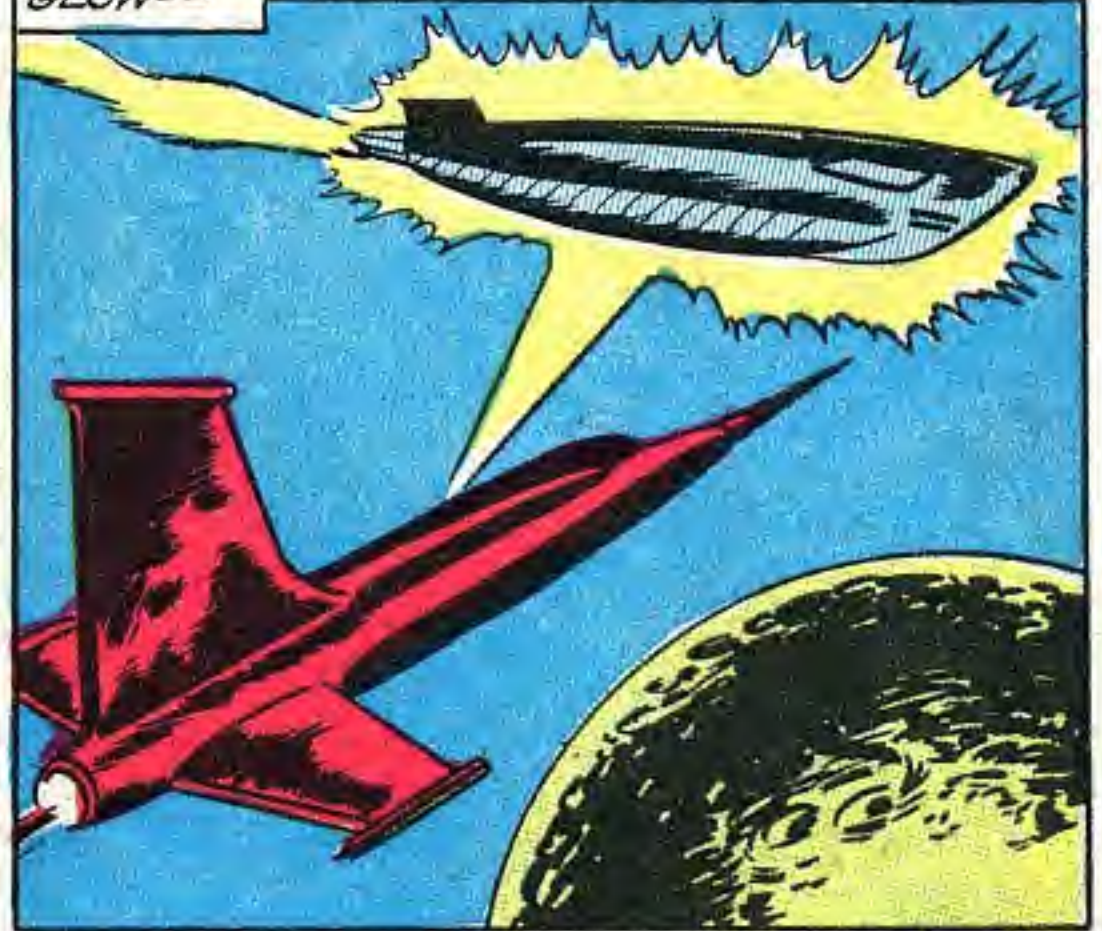
BUT IT WASN'T THE RUSSIANS THAT SIGHTED THEM! FROM THE SURFACE OF THE MOON, TWO STRANGE CRAFT AROSE-- IN A LIGHTNING STAB TO INTERCEPT THEM!



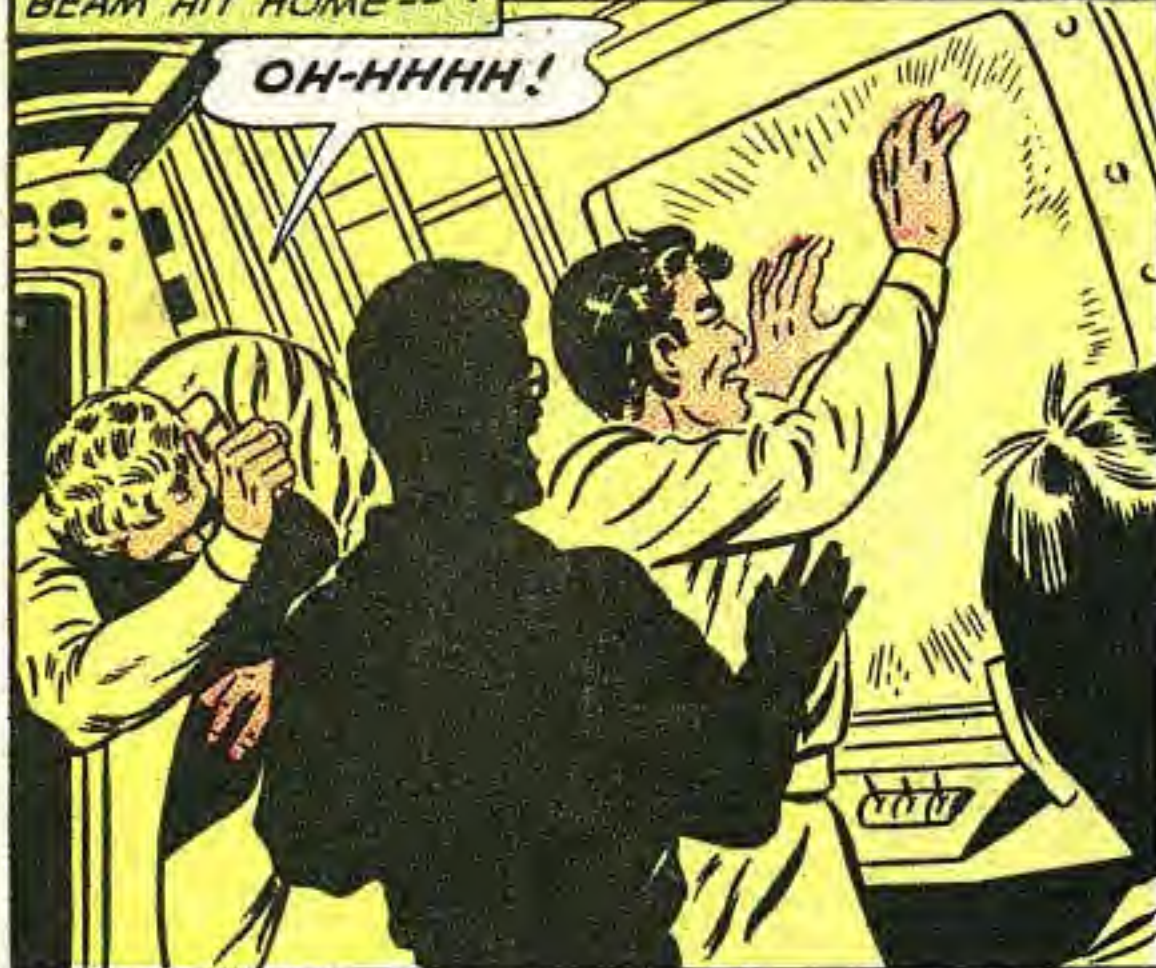
ATTACK-- IN THE SHADOW OF THE DEAD SATELLITE BELOW! LIKE EVIL BIRDS OF PREY, THE TWO SPACE-SHIPS HURTTLED IN, CONFIDENT OF THEIR PROWESS! BUT THEY HADN'T RECKONED ON THE QUALITY OF THEIR ADVERSARY! THIS WAS THE **ATOMIC SUB** TURNED ROCKET--AND THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS PROVED WORTHY BATTLEBIRDS!



BUT NOW THE SECOND CRAFT HAD CLOSED FOR COMBAT-- A TYPE OF COMBAT OF WHICH THE EARTHMEN KNEW NOTHING! FROM THE BLACK ATTACKER CAME A STRANGE RAY-- BATHING THE EMBATTLED ROCKET IN A LURID GLOW--



CAN A LIGHT BE **POISONOUS**-- AFFECTING THE SYSTEM OF WHOMEVER BEHOLDS IT-- CAUSING FIRST A TEMPORARY BLINDNESS AND THEN--**UNCONSCIOUSNESS**? THAT'S HOW IT WAS AS THE WEIRD BEAM HIT HOME--



THEN, FROM THE ENEMY SPACE SHIP, THERE CAME A STRANGE HUMMING! THESE WERE **SIGNALS**-- STRANGE SIGNALS WHICH FLASHED ACROSS SPACE -- SHIFTING THE CONTROLS OF THE ATOMIC SUB-ROCKET!



THE AWFUL INTENTION WAS CLEAR! WITH ITS DIRECTION SHIFTED, THE EARTH-MISSILE VEERED, HEADING SQUARELY FOR A DEADLY METEORITE --**AND EXTINCTION!**



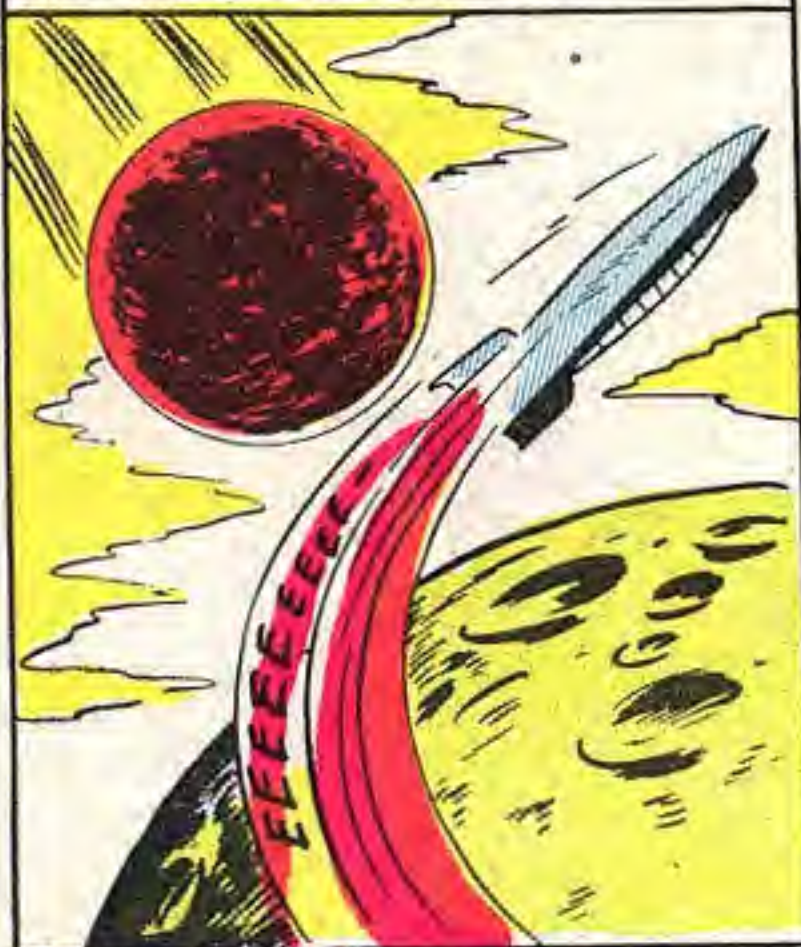
BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, WITH DEATH SEEMINGLY INEVITABLE, THERE CAME A STEALTHY MOVEMENT ABOARD THE ROCKET! NO, IT WASN'T ANY OF THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS -- THEY LAY HELPLESS, UNCONSCIOUS! NO, THIS WAS SOMEBODY ELSE ----



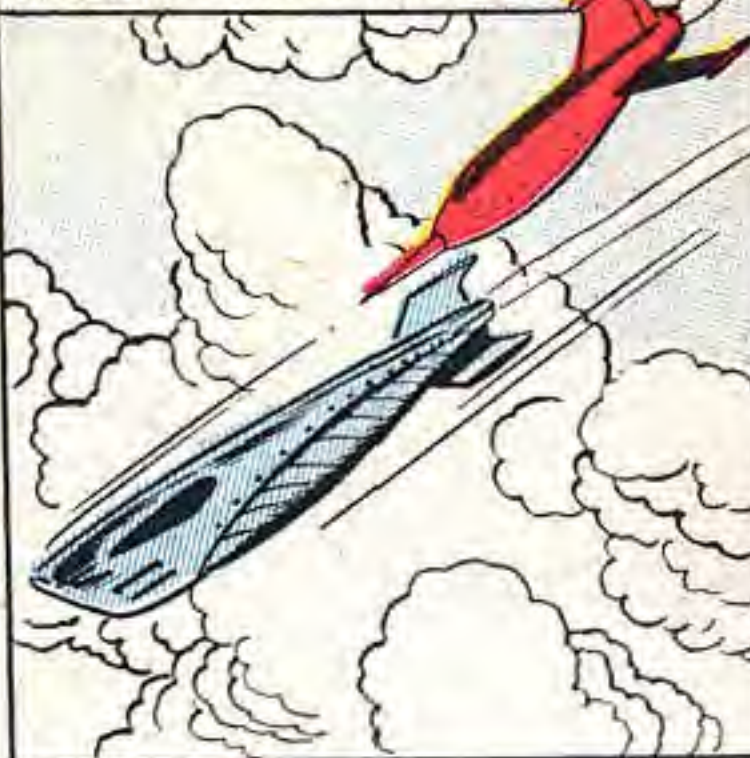
IT WAS-- **JONNIE!** JONNIE--SO INTENT UPON BECOMING A **JUNIOR ATOMIC COMMANDO** THAT HE HAD STOWED AWAY ABOARD THE SPACE CRAFT! JONNIE--WHO, IN HIDING, HAD BEEN SPARED THE DREAD EFFECTS OF THE WEIRD RAY WHICH HAD OVERCOME THE OTHERS! A GLANCE THROUGH A PORTHOLE REVEALED THE AWFUL DANGER! THERE WASN'T A MOMENT TO SPARE AS HE LEAPED TO THE CONTROLS--



IT WAS A HAIRBREADTH MISS AS THE ATOMIC SUB RESPONDED SHARPLY TO THE CONTROLS, AVOIDING THE EXTINCTION WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR IT--



BUT THE DANGER WASN'T OVER YET! SIZING UP THE SITUATION, THE REMAINING ENEMY SPACE-SHIP DARTED FIERCELY TO THE ATTACK! AND WITHIN THE EARTH CRAFT, THERE WAS ONLY JONNIE AT THE UNFAMILIAR CONTROLS--DODGING DESPERATELY--STRIVING TO SAVE THE HELPLESS ATOMIC COMMANDOS!



I--I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT! I GOTTA LAND--LAND ON THE MOON--B-BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW!



THAT'S RIGHT--STEERING WAS ONE THING, BUT THE BOY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE COMPLICATED BUSINESS OF LANDING THE GREAT FLYING ATOM! IT WAS A MIRACLE OF CHANCE--THAT SKIDDING BELLY LANDING---



IT WAS AT THIS FATEFUL MOMENT THAT CONSCIOUSNESS STARTED RETURNING TO THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS---

MUST BE STILL OUT--DREAMIN'-- THINK I SEE THAT KID JONNIE--

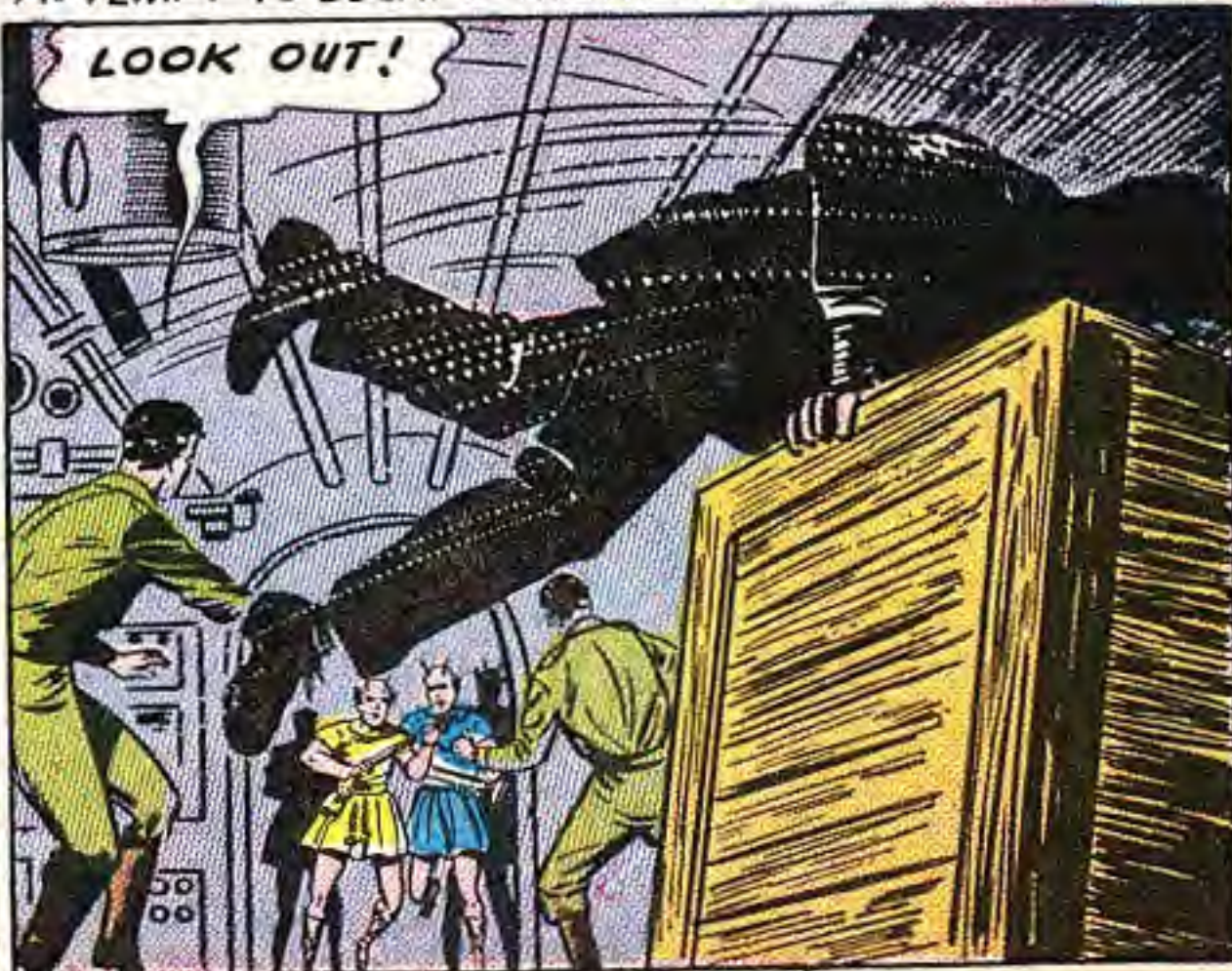


BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR GROGGY SPECULATION! THE PURSUING SPACE SHIP HAD MADE A FAST LANDING NEARBY--AND FROM IT--



MOONMEN--IN A SWARMING ATTACK! JONNIE KNEW THAT HE COULDN'T BE ANY HELP--THAT HIDING WAS BETTER THAN CAPTURE! AND SO IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE ATTENTION OF THE INVADERS--

LOOK OUT!



THERE WASN'T ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE OUTCOME--NOT WITH THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS SO WEAKENED THAT THEY COULDN'T PUT UP A FIGHT--

NO USE--
THEY'VE GOT US--



IT WAS A STRANGE PLACE TO WHICH THEY WERE TAKEN--SEEMING ALMOST LIKE A COURT OF LAW! THERE WERE NO LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES--FOR THE ANCESTORS OF THE MOONMEN HAD, THEY WERE TOLD, MADE SECRET TRIPS TO THE EARTH CENTURIES AGO, RETURNING WITH CAPTIVES!

THOU ART THE LEADER OF THESE MEN?

I AM!

BOY--HE TALKS IN OLD ENGLISH!



THERE CAN BE NO MERCY FOR SUCH AS THOU, WHO LEADEST INVADERS FROM THE EARTH! WE TRIED TO BE FRIENDS TO YOUR BROTHERS--THE EARTHLINGS WHO PRECEDED THEE--BUT THEY MURDERED US WITHOUT MERCY! THEREFORE--

NO-NO--YOU'RE **WRONG!** THOSE THAT CAME HERE BEFORE US **WEREN'T** OUR BROTHERS! THEY ARE MEN OF ANOTHER NATION--**RUSSIA--** AND YOU CAN'T BLAME US FOR WHAT **THEY'VE** DONE!



BUT COMMANDER BILL BATTLE'S PLEA FELL UPON DEAF EARS! TO THE MOONMEN, **ALL** EARTHLINGS WERE RUTHLESS INVADERS--AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE SENTENCE--

LIES--LIES! THE FIENDISH EXPERIMENTS OF THY TRIBE HAVE EVEN, AT TIMES, CHANGED THE **COLOR** OF OUR ORB! IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT THE CRAFT THOU CAMEST IN BE DESTROYED BY MOONFIRE--**AND ALL OF THEE MEET A TERRIBLE DEATH!**



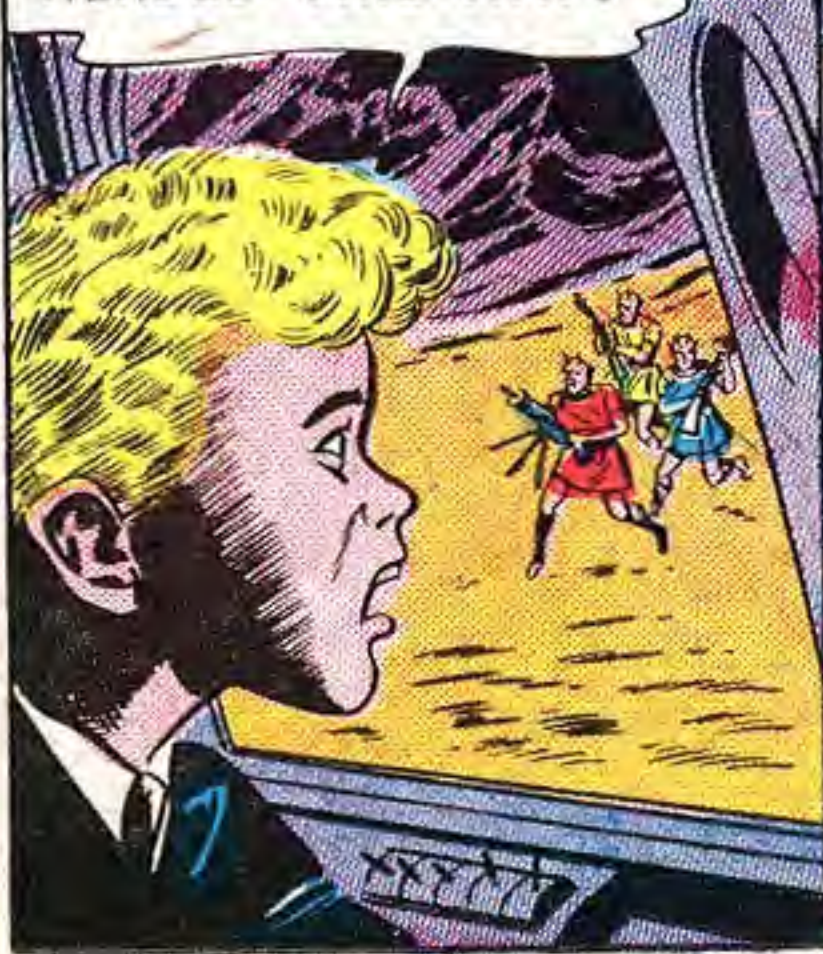
AT THAT MOMENT--BACK AT THE ATOMIC SUB-ROCKET---

IF ONLY I COULD FIND WHERE THEY'D PUT MY **TWO-WAY TELEPATHOR**, I COULD CONTACT THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS!** I'VE LOOKED EVERYPLACE EXCEPT IN DOC'S QUARTERS--BETTER TRY THERE!

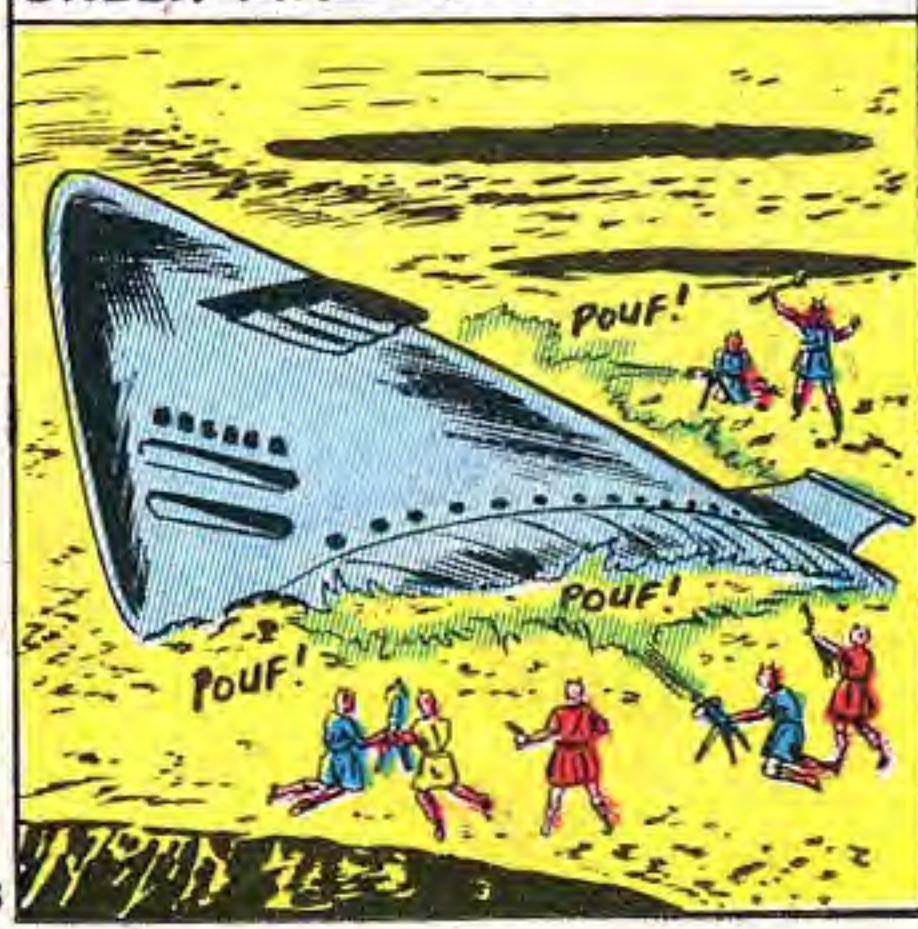


BUT SUDDENLY--

H-HOLY SMOKE! MOONMEN--AND THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY!



HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THEY'D COME TO CARRY OUT THE COURT'S DECREE--AND **DESTROY THE SUB!** ALREADY THEY HAD SET UP THEIR STRANGE APPARATUS--AND FROM IT, A WEIRD **GREEN FIRE** EXUDED!



IN A TRICE, THE ATOMIC SUB-ROCKET WAS ENCIRCLED BY A FLAMING RING, WHICH MOVED IN--IN--

OH-OH! WHAT AM I GONNA DO NOW?



IT--IT'D BE A CINCH IF I KNEW HOW TO TAKE OFF AND GET OUT OF THIS BARBECUE-- **BUT I DON'T!** THE COMMANDOS COULD HELP ME-- BUT I CAN'T GET TO 'EM, SO I GUESS IT'S **CURTAINS!**



BUT THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS WEREN'T IN ANY POSITION TO HELP **ANYBODY** JUST THEN-- THEY WERE IN PLENTY OF TROUBLES THEMSELVES! TRANSPORTED TO A VALLEY RINGED BY SHEER ROCK WALLS, THEY WERE WONDERING-- WORRYING--

WELL, THERE THEY GO-- AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET OUT OF THIS PLACE!

HEY, LOOK UP THERE! IT'S A **CAVE!** I WONDER--



THERE WASN'T ANY TIME FOR WONDERING! IN THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE, SOMETHING MOVED-- SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE--



-- SOMETHING WHICH SENSED ITS PREY, SLITHERING SWIFTLY TO THE ATTACK IN ALL ITS AWFUL HORROR!



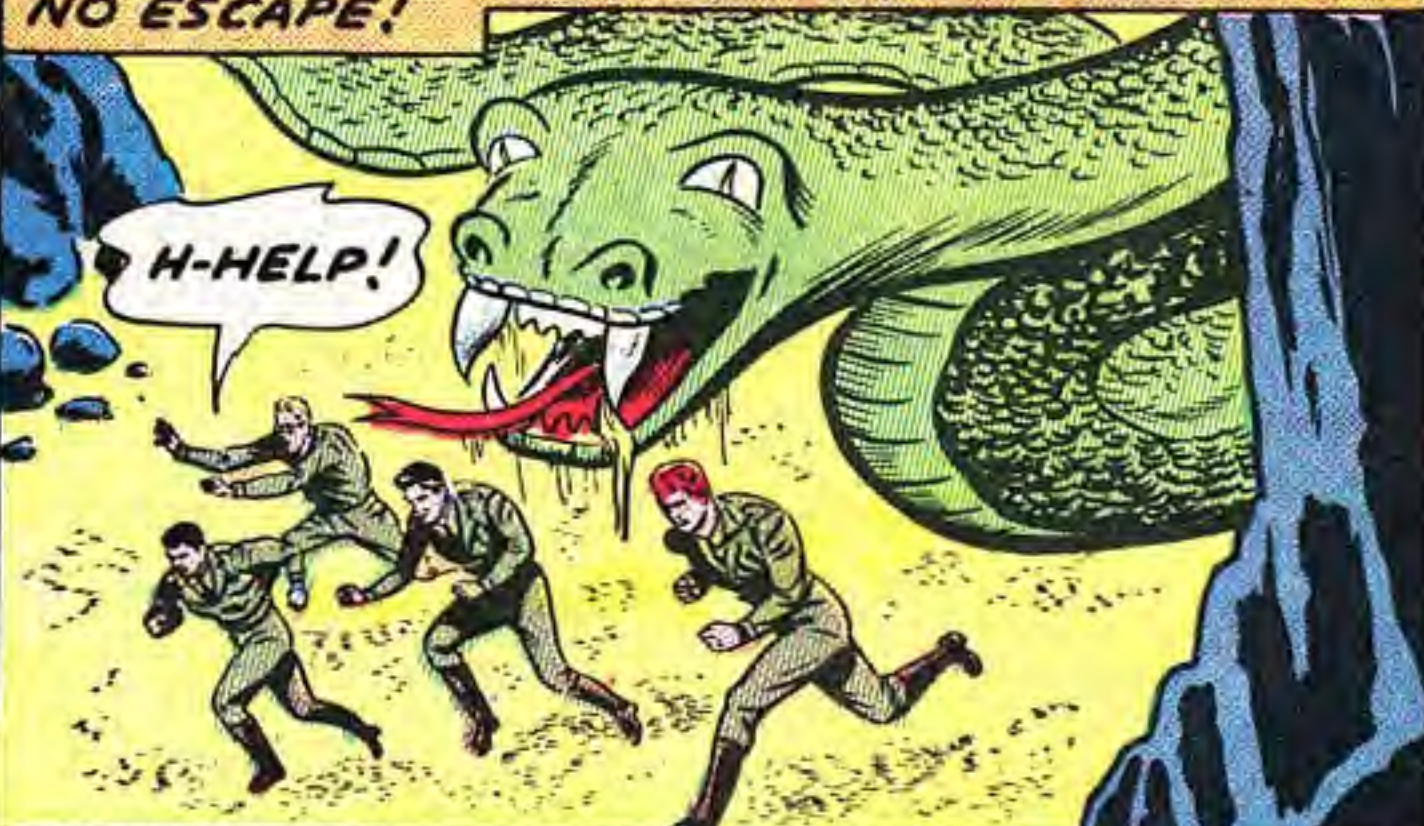
H-HOLY HANNAH! T-TELL ME I'M DREAMIN'!

YOU'RE NOT! THAT THING'S REAL!

RUN, MEN-- RUN!



BUT THE GIGANTIC REPTILE COULD MOVE WITH TERRIBLE SPEED! IT WAS GAINING-- **GAINING**-- AND THERE WAS NO ESCAPE!



THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A CHANCE FOR EITHER JONNIE OR THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS!** BUT IF IT'S THE STUNNING SURPRISE OF A LIFETIME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, JUST SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR NEXT THRILLING EPISODE -- COMPLETE IN **THIS VERY ISSUE!**

The End

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ESCAPE ^{FROM} CORREGIDOR

WHAT was an American submarine expert doing on Corregidor just before the fall of that stronghold in the early stages of World War II? The answer wasn't difficult. Richard Carter -- who was a civilian because authorities felt that he could do greater service to his country in a research capacity than in the armed forces -- had been sent to the Philippines in connection with the Pacific trials of a new type of submarine which he had designed. When the Japanese attacked, he was flown out together with other high officials -- only to have his plane shot down and bail out over Corregidor. That's why he was on hand for the heroic siege which witnessed the death throes of the fortress. And it was a strange coincidence that he should meet there the one man who, throughout school and college, had been his rival. This was "Buzzy" Edwards, who had later attended West Point and was now a Major. Buzzy lost no time in making sneering references to Carter's civilian status and warning him to keep from underfoot. But Carter had no intention of remaining on the sidelines -- not when Corregidor reeled before that last, irresistible Jap attack. As waves of rising sun planes passed overhead, he leaped to a machine-gun beside which lay the body of a soldier -- and sent a hail of bullets upwards. And he had the satisfaction of shooting one of the planes out of the air. It crashed not far from him, in flames, and the body of one of its occupants was thrown clear. The flaring insignia identified him as a high official -- too high to have been on a fighting mission -- from which Carter deduced that the plane had been intent on observation. Curiosity drew him to the man's side, and he whistled as he saw that the body was that of a general. It was a matter of good judgment to search him and the small black book which he found in an inner pocket was a staggering surprise. Carter knew enough Japanese to realize that what he held in his hand was nothing less than *the secret code of the Japanese army!* What to do with it with Corregidor menaced on all sides by the Nips -- and no way to get the code to where it would do most good?

Such was the confusion in the fortress's last moments that Carter couldn't even contact any high official to report his find and gain advice.

The Japs had already landed and were fighting their way inch by inch towards total control. Boats, even midget one-man subs had swarmed ashore when Carter met Major "Buzzy" Edwards behind a barricade and gritted out the story of his find. "Give it here," said Edwards hoarsely. "No dratted civilian can hold onto a thing like that!" But when Carter discovered that he had no idea of what to do with the code, but only meant to get it away from him, he refused. There was no sense in letting it fall into the hands of the Japs again! "Did you hear me, you yellow rat?" asked Edwards grimly, "I said no civilian--" And it was at this point that Carter put his palm into the Major's face -- and pushed hard! He was running then, running for the shore, where several of the little subs were moored. A Jap loomed up before him -- another -- and he emptied his gun, feeling a grim satisfaction as they dropped before his deadly fire. Just one left between him and the nearest sub -- and even as Carter felt a bullet burn his shoulder, he felled the man with a terrific right. Then he was aboard the small craft. He wasn't familiar with its workings -- but Richard Carter knew submarines. Working swiftly against time, he got it under way just in time -- for a detachment of Japs had come up, their bullets clanging hollowly into the submerging conning-tower of the small submarine.

It was fully fueled, that was a comfort. Carter pushed it to its very limit, and surfaced only when the last bit of power was gone. And then -- he waited. He waited until the smoke of approaching ships darkened the horizon. He groaned, because it *had* to be Japs, and that meant curtains for his effort. But the field glasses he found aboard the midget sub showed the American flag, and he cheered lustily -- only to gulp, horrified, when the oncoming squadron sighted him -- and plunged to the attack! As a destroyer raced to ram him, Carter did the only thing he could -- rip off that blessed white civilian shirt and flag the onrushing attacker -- hoping and praying that it would work! Well -- it *did* work, by some miracle of chance. Which is how Richard Carter came to be spared for his further vital work in his country's behalf -- and how America came into possession of the vital Jap code. As for Major Buzzy Edwards -- he'll think twice before condemning civilians again!

UNTOLD SAGAS OF THE WAR



MANY ARE THE TALES OF BRAVERY AND HEROIC EXPLOITS HIDDEN IN THE ANNALS OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT! HERE'S ONE OF THE MOST BLAZING OF ALL, ADAPTED FROM FACTS TOLD US---

SCENES LIKE THIS WERE COMMON DURING WORLD WAR II! IT SHOWS THE REMAINS OF AN ALLIED CONVOY AFTER A SUCCESSFUL U-BOAT RAID---



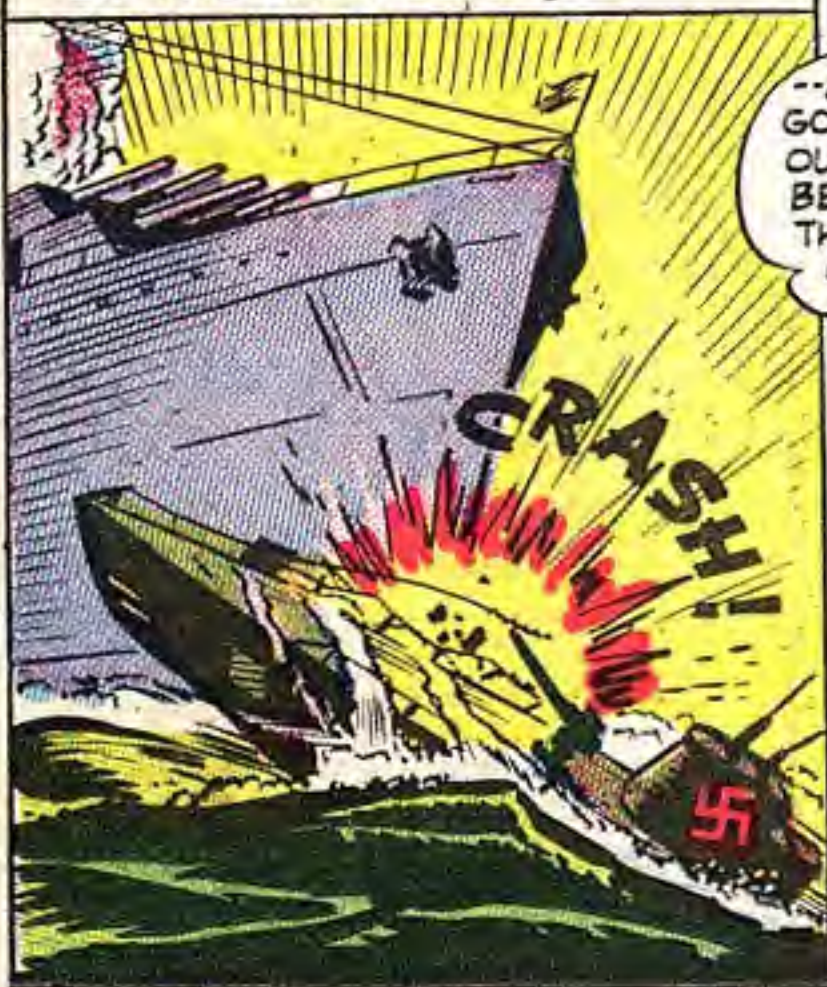
THE DEMOCRACIES RECOGNIZED THE AWFUL MENACE OF THE UNDERSEA RAIDERS---AND CAME BACK FIGHTING!



IT WAS A GRIM BATTLE---WITH NO QUARTER GIVEN OR ASKED---



---AN UNENDING BATTLE OF DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS!



SO SUCCESSFUL WAS THE ANTI-U-BOAT CAMPAIGN THAT THE ALARMED GERMAN ADMIRALTY CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING---

--AND THEIR SUPPLIES GO THROUGH BECAUSE OUR U-BOATS ARE BEING STOPPED! THE SITUATION IS GRAVE!

IT WAS GRAVE, HERR ADMIRAL--BUT NO LONGER! DR. HEINRICH IS HERE TO TELL YOU OF THE NEW U-417 HE HAS PERFECTED--NAZI GERMANY'S THUNDERING ANSWER TO THE ALLIED LIFELINE!



HERE WAS NEWS OF A NEW, DREAD TYPE OF SUBMARINE---

IT CAN OPERATE AT LONG RANGE WITHOUT REFUELLING, AND IS SPEEDIER AND DIVES FASTER THAN ANY KNOWN CRAFT! THE U-417 IS HEAVILY ARMORED AND CARRIES A HUGE TORPEDO CARGO! AND WITH IT'S NEW SUPER-SENSITIVE INSTRUMENTS, IT CAN DETECT ANY SHIP WITHIN RANGE, WHETHER CARGO VESSEL OR WARSHIP! NOTHING CAN STOP IT!



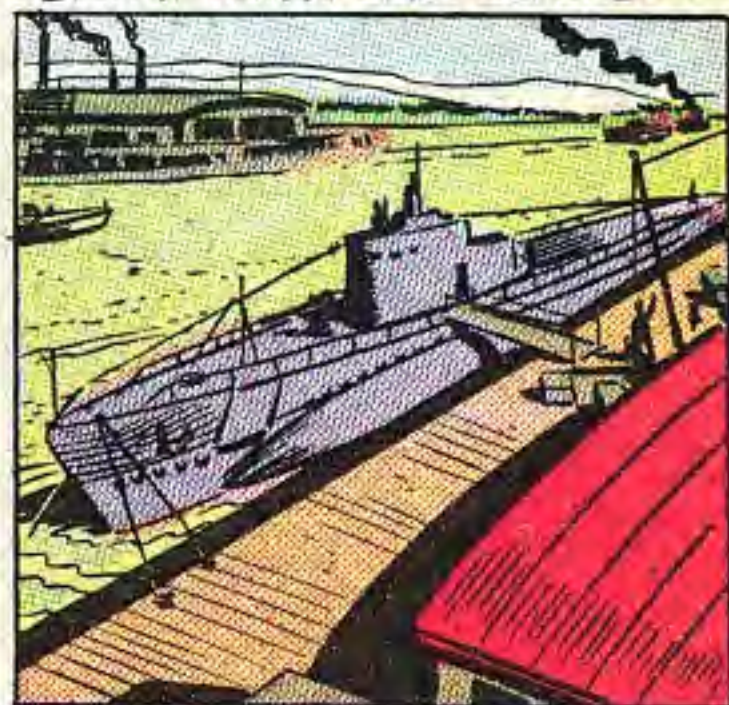
DR. HEINRICH HADN'T EXAGGERATED!
THE U-417 WENT INTO SERVICE ---
AND WROUGHT HAVOC AMONG
ALLIED SHIPPING!



IT WAS UNIFORMLY SUCCESSFUL--
FOR NO FIGHTING SHIP COULD
GET NEAR ENOUGH TO IT TO CUT
SHORT ITS SWATH OF EXECUTION!



NOW THE DEMOCRACIES WERE IN
TROUBLE--**BAD** TROUBLE! YOU'D
NEVER DREAM THAT THEIR DESPER-
ATE PLANS FOR DEFENSE CENTERED
ON THEIR OWN LATEST SUBMARINE--
THE **BARRACUDA**! STRANGE---IT
WASN'T A KILLER! IT WAS LIGHTLY
ARMORED, CARRIED JUST A FEW
TORPEDOES! BUT IT HAD **SPEED**
WHICH THEY HOPED COULD BEAT
THE NAZI CRAFT--**MANEUVER-**
ABILITY NEVER SEEN BEFORE---



NOW IT WAS AMERICAN ADMIRALTY THAT HELD AN
EMERGENCY MEETING--TO WHICH COMMANDER AL BENTON
OF THE **BARRACUDA** WAS SUMMONED ---



BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE TO STOP
THE U-417 THROUGH ANY
CONVENTIONAL METHOD
AS YET DEVELOPED!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE
GOING TO USE A
SUB--THE
BARRACUDA!

BUT--BUT HOW CAN A SUB
TRAP A U-BOAT? SPECIALLY
THE **BARRACUDA**--IT'S GOT
NOTHING IN THE WAY OF
ARMOR OR WEAPONS TO
SPEAK OF-- IT'S
STRICTLY AN
EXPERIMENTAL
JOB!

BUT IT'S GOT
SPEED--AND
MANEUVERABILITY
PLUS! NOW, HERE'S
OUR PLAN---



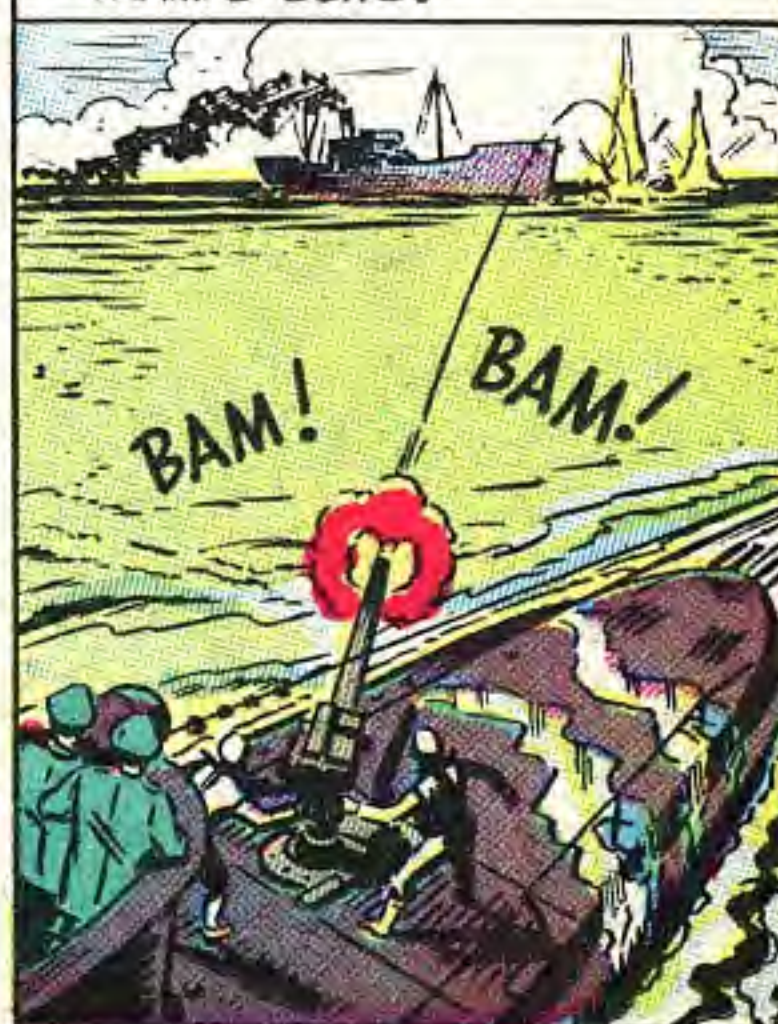
WHEN MAY 17TH ARRIVED, THE NAZIS
WERE CHAGRINED--FOR THE EXPECTED
CONVOY NEVER SHOWED UP! INSTEAD ---



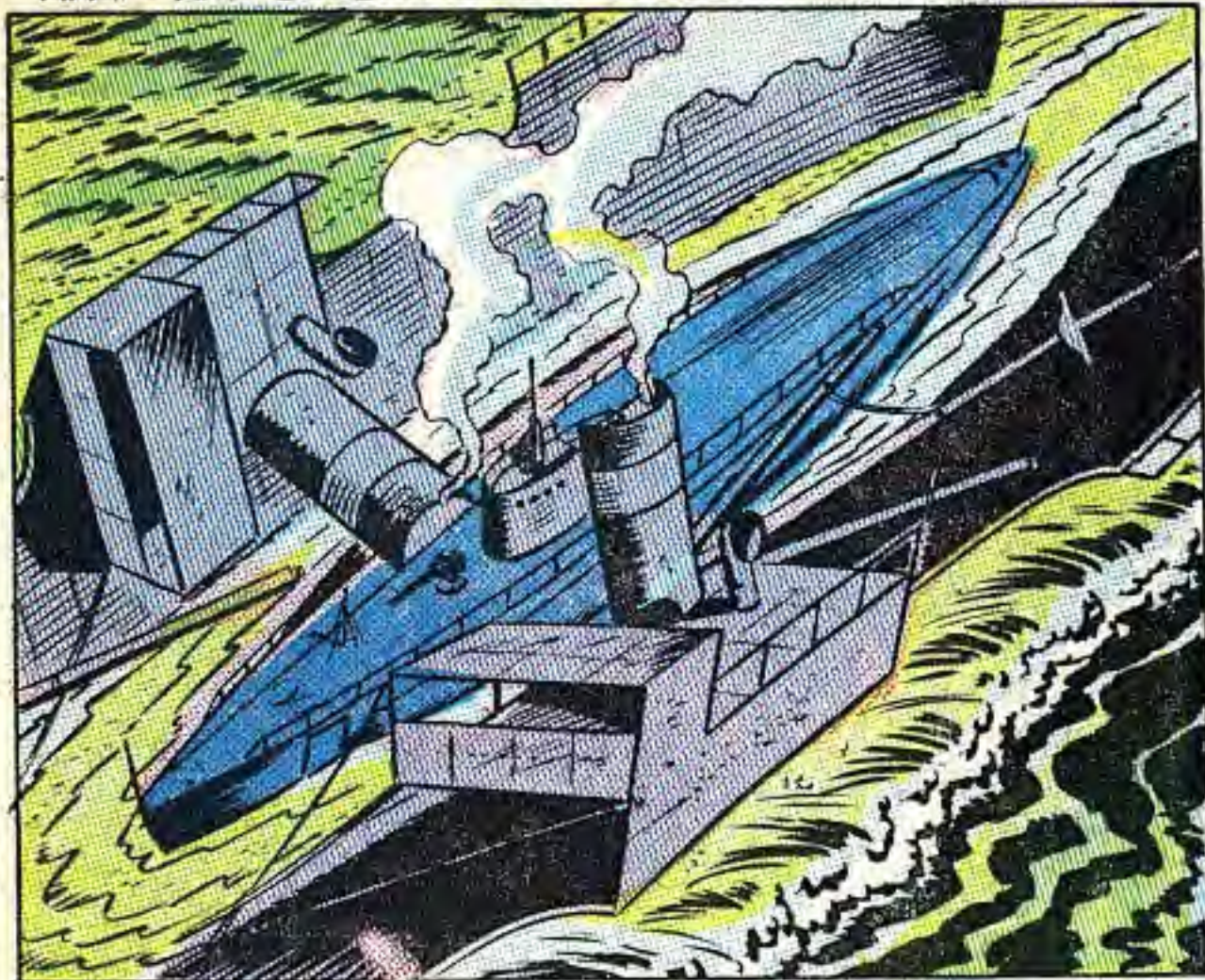
SMOOTHLY, EVILLY
THE KILLER ROSE ---



---AND SENT ITS VICIOUS MESSAGE
OF DEATH ACROSS THE OLD
TRAMPS BOWS!



IT WAS LIKE MAGIC, WHAT HAPPENED THEN! WITH DRAMATIC SUDDENNESS, THE FALSE SIDES AND SUPERSTRUCTURE FELL AWAY! AND BENEATH WAS... THE BARRACUDA!



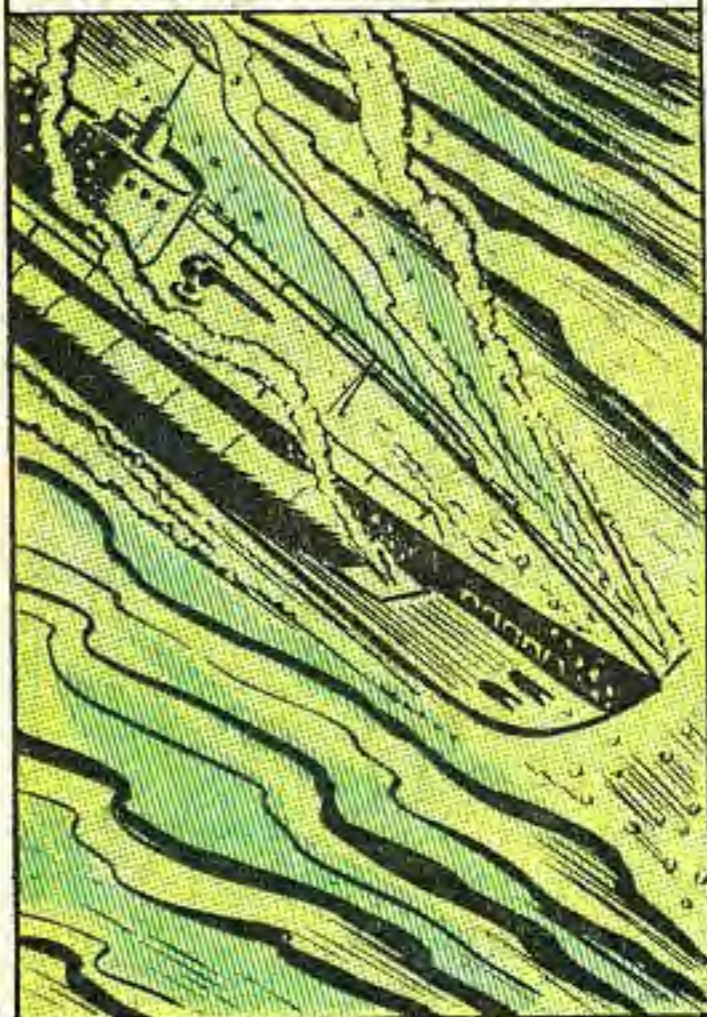
AND ABOARD THE U-47...



WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE MAY BE NEAR... PLANES, DESTROYERS...

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S A TRAP! WE-WE'VE GOT TO SUBMERGE... FAST!

DOWN, DOWN WENT THE U-BOAT --- BUT THE BARRACUDA WAS RIGHT BEHIND!



THEY WERE SUBSURFACE NOW, AND CONFIDENTLY, THE U-BOAT STROVE TO LEAVE ITS PURSUER BEHIND! BUT ALL OF ITS SPEED COULDN'T SHAKE OFF THE BARRACUDA! RELENTLESSLY, IT GAINED--GAINED--



IN A BURST OF THROBBING SPEED, THE AMERICAN CRAFT SWUNG WIDE, SEEKING TO GET THE U-BOAT BROADSIDE TO IT! WITH A FAST TURN IT NARROWLY EVADED A NAZI TORPEDO---



WE'VE GOT HER BROADSIDE! NUMBERS 2 AND 3 TORPEDO TUBES--- FIRE!



IT WAS A BREATHLESS MOMENT---



--- BUT THE TORPEDOES SPED HOME UNERRINGLY--- DESTROYING THE DEADLY U-417 AND MANY OF THE HIGHEST OFFICERS IN THE NAZI ADMIRALTY! AND THUS ENDED AN UNTOLD SAGA OF THE GREAT WAR--- WITH DEMOCRACY TRIUMPHANT!



There's NO TELLING *what* YOU'LL FIND!

IT'S all a matter of philosophy of life, and Leo McGurk had his carefully outlined. Make up your mind what you want -- and then grab it, letting nothing stand in your way. His early attempts were none too successful, and civilian life becoming just a trifle too hot for him, he dropped out of circulation prudently during the period of World War II by enlisting in the navy under an assumed name. He became an expert in every phase of submarine activity, and, when the war was over, sought to forget it all and return to the rackets. But he soon found that things had tightened up, and there was very little money around for an operator of his type. Since it was a matter of eating, he was glad to answer an ad calling for submarine men -- and that's how he met Ed Hardy.

Ed had a philosophy of life too -- but it was different from McGurk's. It called for living dangerously, taking a chance -- but playing square. He had purchased an old submarine, and was going treasure-hunting. It was no stab in the dark -- he had studied charts and had accurately plotted the location of the Jap battleship *Osaki*, which had gone down off the Solomons, with millions in gold bullion aboard. Ed Hardy meant to have a try at that treasure, and had gathered a good crew, to whom a fair share had been promised. But that wasn't enough for Leo McGurk. There's no telling what you'll find beneath the surface, and it might *not* be treasure. On the other hand a smart operator could use a submarine for jobs that were *bound* to pay off -- piracy for instance. Now if *he* could only take over the sub from Hardy, it might be the break he had always sought! That called for *mutiny*, and it must be admitted that McGurk did his best towards starting one. He tried to inflame the crew against Hardy by telling them that the share of the treasure that they'd been promised was insufficient. What he hadn't reckoned on was that the crew knew Hardy for a man, and liked him. And so word of what McGurk was up to came to Hardy. And when the sub put in at the small South Seas island of Orboka for supplies, McGurk was put ashore.

This was getting off easy, since mutiny is a serious offense. But instead of appreciating Hardy's leniency,

McGurk merely took it out in hatred. And he set about retaliating, in line with his philosophy of grabbing what you want. He wanted that submarine, and in order to get it, he recruited as tough a crew of wharf-rats and killers as the Orboka waterfront could supply. Then followed a surprise raid on the sub, during which McGurk availed himself of the pleasure of personally shooting Ed Hardy. Victory was sudden and complete, and McGurk lost no time in putting out to sea with his capture and its new cut-throat crew. Before embarking on his piratical career, however, he determined to use Hardy's charts for a stab at the Jap treasure -- because, after all, there's no telling *what* you'll find at the bottom of the sea! And when they had reached the designated spot, it was McGurk himself who donned a diving suit and left the sub through an air lock to explore the ocean bottom. He soon found that the maps weren't far off, for there lay the remains of the *Osaki*. Its interior had been blasted by the explosion which had sunk the Jap battleship, and the bullion ingots were there for the seeing -- for the taking! McGurk could hardly wait to get back to the submarine for the necessary equipment. But just a few steps from the sunken ship he stumbled against something, and went down. It was a huge sea clam, its giant shell opened, "Almost as if it's *grinning*," thought McGurk. "A big open-faced grin -- just like that fool Ed Hardy!" The very memory of Hardy angering him, he kicked out viciously, his foot thudding against the big shell's hinge. He had never dreamed that what happened then was possible -- that the giant sea clam could react with such sudden speed. For the shell had clamped shut, imprisoning him by one foot -- and nothing he could do would gain him freedom. Furiously, vainly he struggled against the awful grip -- and then a bubbling rush of water filled him with such a panic as he had never known. His air line -- *that* was caught in the closed shell too -- and torn so that the sea water flooded in upon him. It didn't take long for Leo McGurk to drown. And if you should chance to go down after the golden hoard of the Jap battleship *Osaki*, look sharp. You see -- there's no telling what you'll find down there!

YOU'VE HEARD PEOPLE SAY THAT THERE ARE STRANGER THINGS ON EARTH THAN EVER MAN IMAGINED! WELL, THEN -- HOW ABOUT **BEYOND** THE EARTH -- IN THE LONELY, DISTANT REACHES OF SPACE? HOW ABOUT ON THE **MOON** -- TO WHICH THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS** HAVE JOURNEYED ON A PERIL-FRAUGHT MISSION TO SAVE DEMOCRACY! LET'S SEE FOR OURSELVES! LET'S JOIN THEM ON THAT FABLED, SILVERY ORB -- LET'S LIVE WITH THEM THE BREATHLESS, TENSE ADVENTURE WE'LL CALL --



DID YOU EVER LIVE A NIGHTMARE? THAT'S WHAT THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS** DID -- IN THAT AWFUL MOMENT WHEN THE HOT BREATH OF A GIGANTIC SERPENT THREATENED EXTINCTION -- AND THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE A CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL --

H-HELP!

THAT -- THAT BIG ROCK -- IT'S GOT A SPACE UNDER IT, LIKE A SHALLOW CAVE! **IN THERE, QUICK!**



IT WAS A TEMPORARY SHELTER FROM THE AWFUL DEATH THAT AWAITED --

WE'RE SAFE FOR A LITTLE WHILE ANYWAY -- THAT MONSTER CAN'T GET IN AT US! -- HEY, BILL -- THAT EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE -- WHAT --

QUIET! THERE'S SOMETHING COMING THROUGH -- LIKE A **VOICE** SOUNDING IN MY BRAIN -- STRANGE --



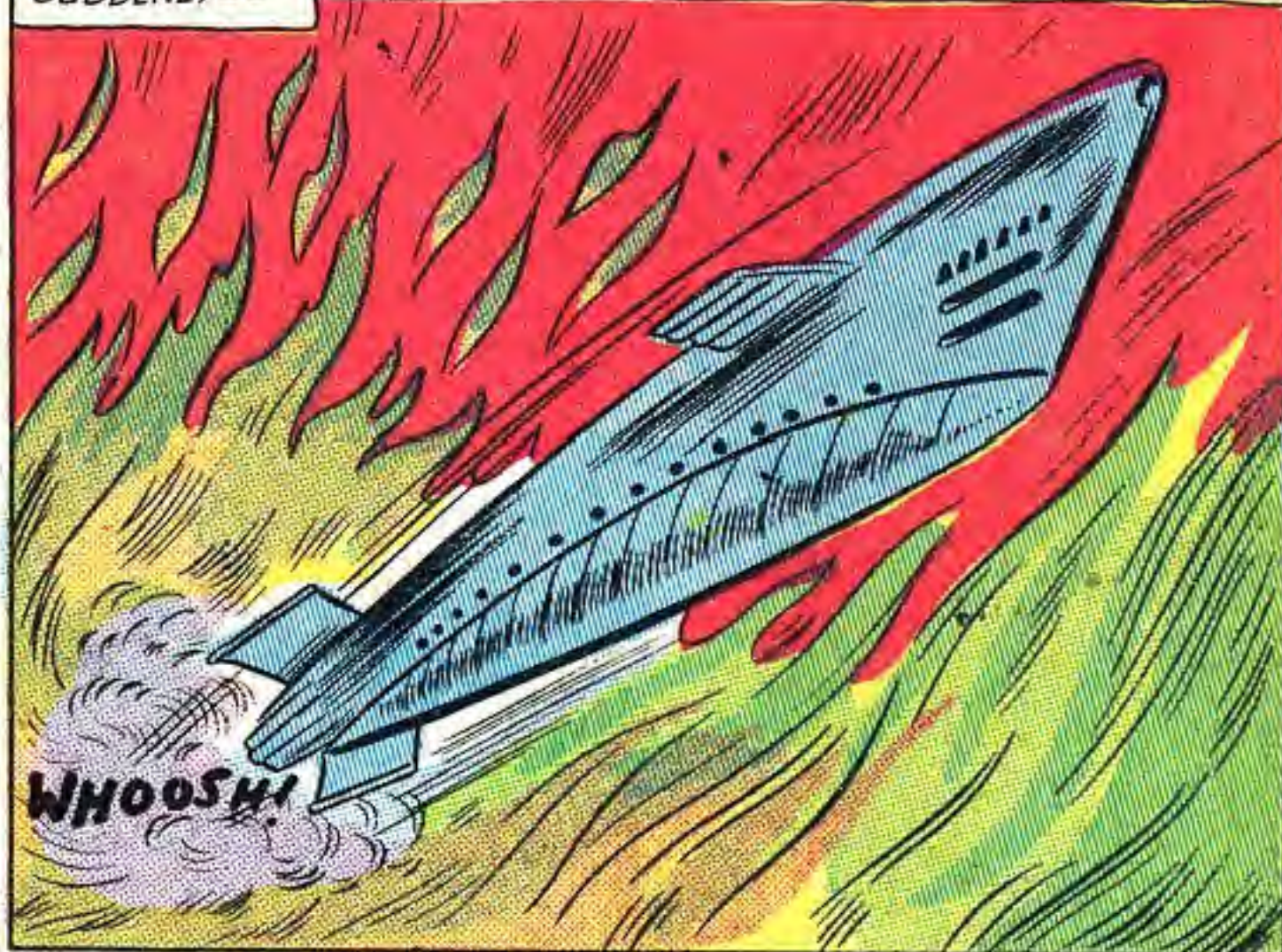
YES, IT WAS A VOICE--A **TELEPATHIC** VOICE! FOR JONNIE HAD AT LAST LOCATED HIS STRANGE DEVICE--AND EVEN AS THE WEIRD GREEN FLAMES MOVED INTO DESTROY HIM, HIS FRANTIC MESSAGE WENT OUT, DESPERATELY SEEKING THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS!**



THINK FAST, BILL BATTLE--THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT FOR POOR JONNIE! NOT FOR **YOU** EITHER-- FOR THE **COLOSSAL SERPENT**, WITH A FIENDISH INTELLIGENCE, IS MENACING YOUR LAST SLIM HOPE OF PROTECTION---



THE HUNGRY FLAMES REACHED FOR THEIR PREY! BUT SUDDENLY--



MEANWHILE, THE SERPENT'S STRENGTH HAD FINALLY TOLD--AND AN AWFUL DANGER CONFRONTED THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS--

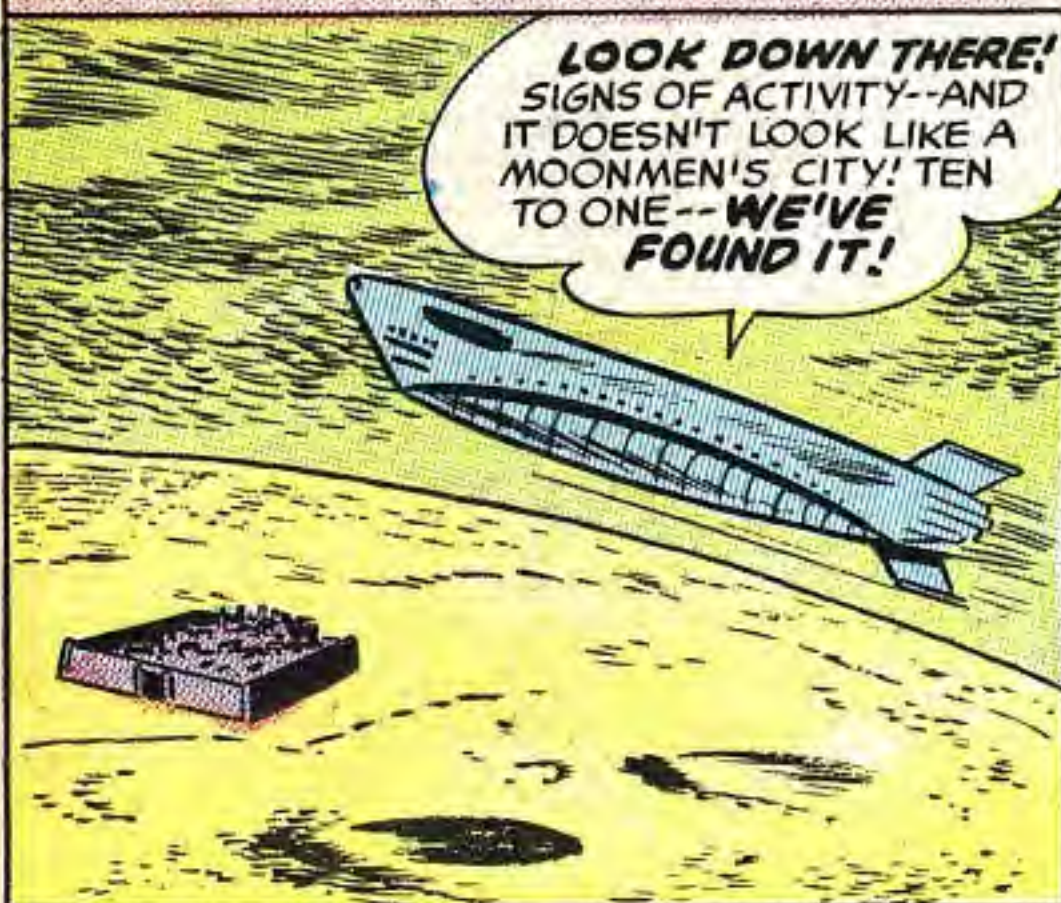


RUN, COMMANDOS-- HELP IS ON ITS WAY! IT'S **JONNIE**, MANNING THE ROCKET CONTROLS-- GUIDED TO THE SPOT BY YOUR BRAIN WAVES, INTERCEPTED BY THE **TELEPATHOR!** JONNIE, SENDING THE ATOM SUB INTO A SCREAMING DIVE THAT SPELLED **DEATH** TO THE PURSUING MONSTER!



THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS** WERE SAFE NOW -- AND FREE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR MISSION-- TO SCOUT OUT THE RUSSIAN ACTIVITY ON THE MOON AND DO WHAT THEY COULD TO DELAY IT! IT CALLED FOR AN INTENSIVE SEARCH-- BUT FINALLY THEY SAW, FAR BELOW THEM--

LOOK DOWN THERE! SIGNS OF ACTIVITY--AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MOONMEN'S CITY! TEN TO ONE--WE'VE FOUND IT!



NOW IT WAS TIME FOR DOC TO PUT INTO OPERATION ONE OF HIS GREATEST INVENTIONS--A TELEVISOR SCREEN TO WHICH DISTANCE WAS NO BARRIER--

RUSSIANS ALL RIGHT-- LOOK AT THOSE UNIFORMS! SOMETHING IMPORTANT MUST BE GOING ON-- I WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY OF PICKING IT UP!

THERE IS A WAY!-- JONNIE! GOT A JOB FOR YOU--AND YOUR TELEPATHOR!



ONCE AGAIN, THE STRANGE DEVICE PAID OFF--

OUR TESTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL--WHY DELAY ANY LONGER? ON MY OWN RESPONSIBILITY, I SHALL LAUNCH THE **FIRST H-BOMB FROM OUT OF SPACE!** IT WILL BE DISCHARGED AUTOMATICALLY WITHIN 4 HOURS-- KILLING MILLIONS OF OUR ENEMY!

THAT PUT IT SQUARELY UP TO THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS!** SOMEHOW--THEY MUST **DEFEAT** THIS AWFUL MENACE! SILENTLY, UNDER COVER OF NIGHT, THEY LANDED NEAR THE RUSSIANS' WALLED CITY!--

BUT--BUT I GOTTA GO WITH YOU! GOSH, I FEEL LIKE--LIKE I'VE EARNED IT!

NO, JONNIE-- YOU CAN'T COME! AND JUST SO'S YOU DON'T GET LONE-- SOME--SUPPOSING YOU USE YOUR **TELEPATHOR** AND DOC'S TELEVISION SCREEN, JUST TO KEEP IN TOUCH!



DIDN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE-- WELL, LIKE A **HEEL**-- MAKING HIM STAY BEHIND AFTER WHAT HE'S DONE FOR US, BILL?

I'LL SAY IT DID! BUT I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING! I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO **NEED** SOMEBODY ON THE OUTSIDE--AND **JONNIE'S ELECTED!**



CAUTIOUSLY, CAUTIOUSLY UP TO THE GATES--CAREFUL YOU'RE NOT SEEN! STALK THE GUARDS--THEN **STRIKE!** CAREFUL--ANY OUTCRY AT THIS STAGE WOULD SPOIL THINGS--

GOOD WORK-- I DON'T THINK ANYONE HEARD--



I DON'T GET IT! WHAT'S THE IDEA-- WHAT ARE YOU BURYIN'?

JUST A LITTLE GADGET I GOT DOC TO FIX UP FOR ME! WE MAY **NEED** IT LATER!



CAREFULLY THEY SCALED THE WALLS! IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND THE BUILDING THEY SOUGHT--

THIS IS THE PLACE-- I CAN READ ENOUGH RUSSIAN TO MAKE **THAT** OUT! SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT **H-BOMB LAUNCHING CONTROLS!**--THINK YOU CAN GET THAT LOCK OPENED, TONY?

JUST WATCH ME!



THERE WASN'T A LOCK IN THE WORLD THAT COULD RESIST TONY'S SUBTLE MASTERY--AND THIS ONE WAS NO EXCEPTION! BUT AS THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN--

THERE! DIDN'T I TELL---

IT'S AN **ALARM!** GET SET, BOYS--**HERE THEY COME!**



IT WAS A GRIM FIGHT--A FIGHT TO THE FINISH! THIS WAS A GAME AT WHICH, THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS WERE **EXPERT**--ALL THE WAY FROM COM-MANDER BILL BATTLE'S FLYING FISTS TO CHAMP RUGGLES' MIGHTY MUSCLES! HARD, BLAZINGLY THEY FOUGHT---

SHOW 'EM, COMMANDOS!

LIKE THIS?



BUT HUMAN FLESH CAN STAND JUST SO MUCH-- AND THE BRAVEST MUST FALL BEFORE ODDS! DRAGGED BEFORE THE RUSSIAN COMMANDANT, THEY HEARD BITTER WORDS---

YOU'LL BE KEPT ALIVE ONLY UNTIL WE RECEIVE WORD OF THE EXECUTION WROUGHT BY OUR GIANT HELIUM BOMB! **THEN--**

I GET IT, MR. COMMIE! YOU BOYS ARE **SO EXPERT AT DEATH!**



INEXORABLY, THE MOMENTS TICKED PAST TOWARDS THE ZERO HOUR! AND THE ONLY MEN WHO COULD SAVE AMERICA WERE **PRISONERS!**

IT--IT LOOKS **BAD!** THERE'S NOTHING--

QUIET, DOC-- WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN DOING? I'M TRYING TO **CONCENTRATE**, SO THAT JONNIE CAN PICK UP MY BRAIN WAVES! IF HE DOES--THERE'S **STILL** A CHANCE!



AT THAT MOMENT--ABOARD THE ATOM SUB-ROCKET--

JONNIE--CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU KNOW HOW TO PILOT THE SHIP NOW--AND YOU'LL FIND THE LOCATION OF THE MOONMEN'S CITY IN THE LOG! GET THERE AT TOP SPEED--BARGE RIGHT IN--**AND TELL THEM--**



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

TERRIFIC VALUE!

BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO GET THIS
SENSATIONAL COLLECTION OF AIRPLANES



AMAZING
get acquainted offer!
GIANT COLLECTION
of 40 assorted pieces
all yours
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Please send me the following. If not delighted my money will be cheerfully refunded.

☐ 40 assorted airplanes, I enclose 98¢

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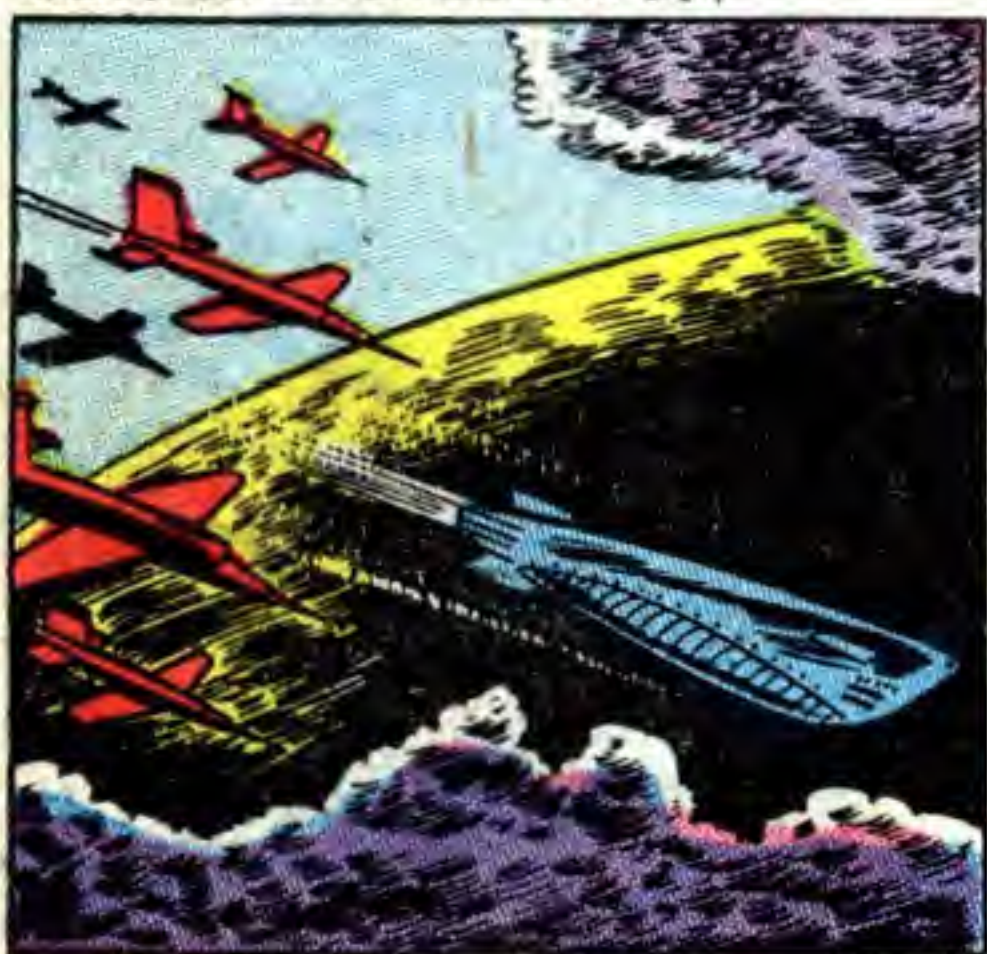
AN HOUR LATER, THE MOONMEN WERE SURPRISED TO SEE---



DROGGED BEFORE THE MOON KING, JONNIE FOUND HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM --



AND SO A STRANGE CAVALCADE SET FORTH! IN THE LEAD, A BOY PILOTING THE MIGHTY ATOMIC SUB TURNED ROCKET--AND BEHIND HIM, A FIGHTING FLEET OF THE MOONMEN'S BLACK SPACE-SHIPS!



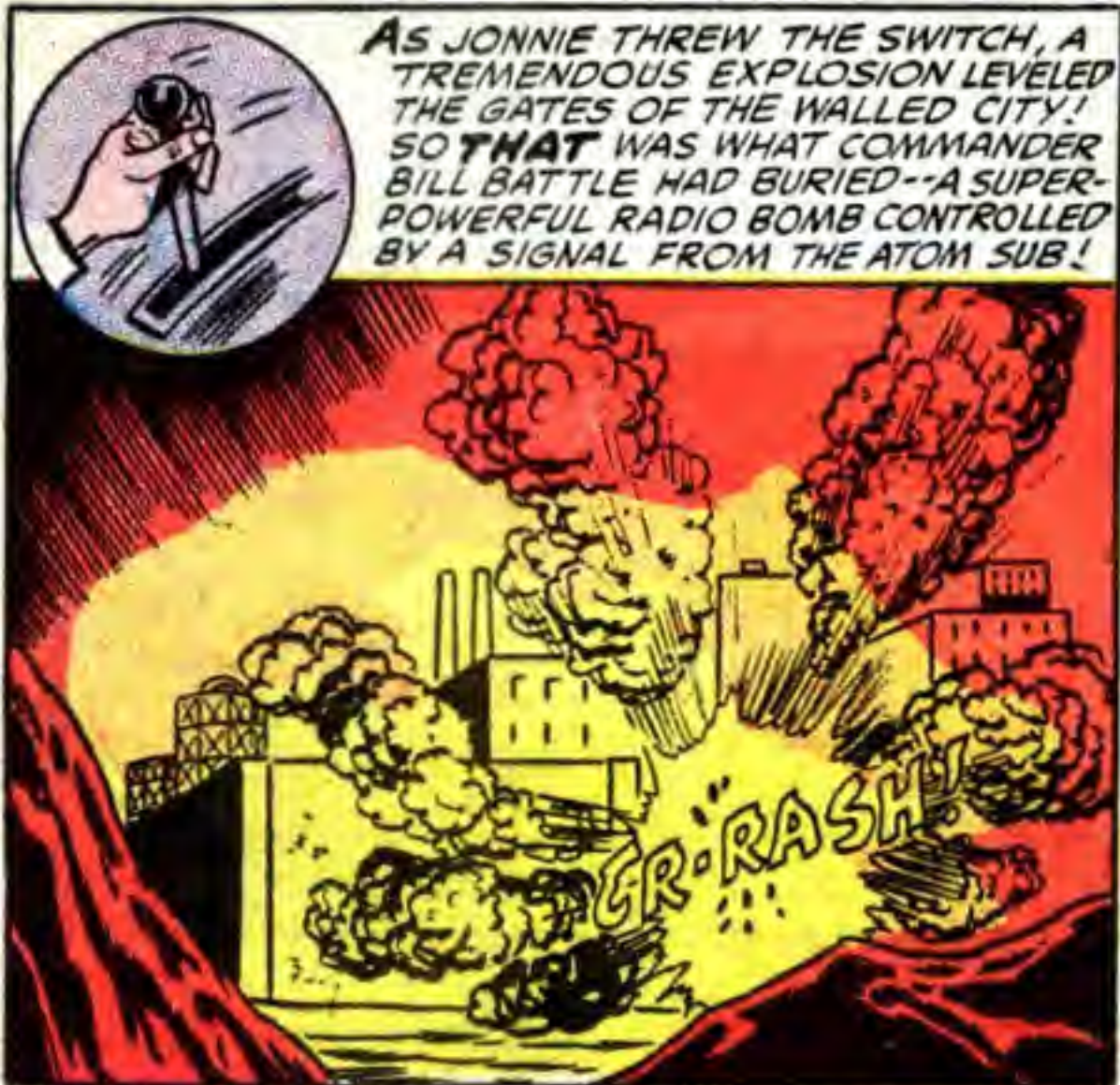
NIGHT STILL HID THE FLEET'S ARRIVAL NEAR THE RUSSIAN CITY! WHILE THE MOONMEN WARRIORS TOOK THEIR PRE-ARRANGED POSITIONS, WAITING TENSELY, JONNIE REMAINED BEHIND---



WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL I RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS--SHH-HH! HERE THEY COME!

JONNIE! IF YOU'VE RETURNED WITH RE-INFORCEMENTS ACCORDING TO TIME-TABLE, THROW THE PANEL SWITCH MARKED RADIO CONTACT--AND LET THE MOONMEN ATTACK!

AS JONNIE THREW THE SWITCH, A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION LEVELED THE GATES OF THE WALLED CITY! SO THAT WAS WHAT COMMANDER BILL BATTLE HAD BURIED--A SUPER-POWERFUL RADIO BOMB CONTROLLED BY A SIGNAL FROM THE ATOM SUB!



AND THROUGH THE GAP LEFT BY THE EXPLOSION--THE MOONMEN CHARGED!



DEATH TO THE INVADERS!

THE SURPRISE WAS COMPLETE-- THE RUSSIANS CAUGHT OFF GUARD--



NONE MUST ESCAPE!

THE OPENING OF THE ATTACK WAS AS A SIGNAL TO THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS!** THEY NEEDED CHAMP'S SURGING POWER THEN-- AND HE DIDN'T DIS-APPOINT!

TIME FOR OUR LITTLE ACT! FOLLOW ME, FELLAS!



THIS-- THIS HAD BETTER WORK! THAT H-BOMB'S DUE TO BE CATAPULTED INTO SPACE ANY SECOND NOW! IT TOOK THIS RAID BY THE MOONMEN TO DRAW OFF THE RUSSIANS-- AND GIVE US ACCESS TO IT!

RUSH! WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME!



THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME! FOR EVEN AS THEY RUSHED UP THERE WAS A ROARING HUM AS THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS WERE UNLEASHED-- AND THE MIGHTY H-BOMB CATAPULTED INTO SPACE-- SPEEDING TO-WARDS AMERICA ON A MISSION OF DEATH!



IT WAS IN THIS AWFUL MOMENT OF AWFUL EMERGENCY THAT BILL BATTLE CONCEIVED A DARING PLAN!

THERE'S A CHANCE-- A CRAZY CHANCE-- BUT WE'LL TAKE IT! ONTO THE ATOMIC SUB-ROCKET, FAST!

C'MON, JONNIE-- THIS MEANS YOU, TOO!



TAKEOFF-- IN PURSUIT OF A FLYING H-BOMB!



THE RUSSIANS HAD BUILT TERRIFIC SPEED INTO THEIR DEATH-LADEN MISSILE! BUT THIS WAS AMERICA'S ATOMIC SUB TURNED ROCKET-- AND NOTHING COULD EQUAL IT! GRADUALLY IT GAINED-- GAINED--

WE'RE WITHIN EFFECTIVE RANGE FOR ATOMIC SHELLFIRE! HANG ON-- AND LET 'ER GO!



POW! POW! POW! CRISPLY, THE VOICE OF THE GREAT ATOMIC GUNS RANG OUT--AS THE SLIM AND DEADLY SHELLS HOMED UNERRINGLY ON THEIR RACING TARGET! THEN CAME A DEAFENING ROAR AS OF AN EXPLODING PLANET-- A BLINDING, SEARING FLASH AS OF A THOUSAND SUNS-- **AND THE AWFUL H-BOMB WAS NO MORE!** THESE HAD BEEN DELAYED-ACTION SHELLS, AUTOMATICALLY DIRECTED--AND THEY'D GIVEN THE AMERICAN ROCKET TIME TO SPEED OUT OF RANGE--



AS THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS APPROACHED THE EARTH-- THEIR MISSION COMPLETED AND SUCCESSFUL--

PEOPLE STILL TALK ABOUT THAT ROARING WELCOME NEW YORK HELD FOR THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS-- ALL FIVE OF THEM! YES, JONNIE'S ONE OF THE GANG--

WE'LL BE HOME SOON, AND--AND YOU'LL GET RID OF YOUR STOWAWAY! I-I GUESS YOU WON'T BE WANTING ME AROUND-- I GUESS--

WHY NOT? AFTER ALL--IT'S NOT EVERY BOY WHO GETS TO BE A PERMANENT MEMBER OF OUR GROUP--AS A FULL-FLEDGED JUNIOR ATOMIC COMMANDO!



JONNIE'LL BE BACK IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, TOGETHER WITH HIS FOUR FIGHTING FRIENDS! YOU'LL SEE THE MIGHTY ATOMIC SUB IN A ROUSING, SPINE-TINGLING ADVENTURE YOU'LL REMEMBER FOREVER! **DON'T MISS IT!**

The End

WHAT IS THE GREATEST HONOR THAT AMERICA CAN BESTOW? A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL, SOME MIGHT SAY--OR ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY! BUT OTHERS WOULD HOLD THAT NO MORE SIGNIFICANT RECOGNITION CAN BE ACCORDED THAN TO BE CHOSEN AS AN **ATOMIC COMMANDO**--A MEMBER OF THAT SMALL AND TIGHTLY-KNIT CORPS THAT AMERICA CALLS UPON IN MOMENTS OF DIRECT NATIONAL EMERGENCY! EVER WONDER WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO HOLD A POST OF SUCH FAR-REACHING RESPONSIBILITY? IN THESE PAGES, WE'LL TRY TO GIVE YOU THE ANSWER! SUPPOSE, FOR INSTANCE, THAT YOU WERE CHIEF OF THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS**--COMMANDER BILL BATTLE, CAPTAIN OF THE ATOMIC SUB ITSELF--THIS MIGHT BE ONE OF YOUR DAYS!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ATOMIC COMMANDO

COMMANDER
BILL BATTLE



YES, YOU'RE **BILL BATTLE**--AND WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT YOU ARE HITS YOU WITH PILE-DRIVER FORCE! YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR, CONGRATULATING YOURSELF--AND YOU REALIZE THAT THINGS WEREN'T ALWAYS THIS WAY!



GOSH, I'M LUCKY! THE WAY THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT--EVEN AS A KID, I DREAMED OF BEING OF SERVICE TO AMERICA--BUT THIS---

NO, YOU HADN'T EVER EXPECTED TO COME THIS FAR--NOT WHEN YOU'D QUALIFIED AS A SECRET SERVICE MAN, AND VOWED TO BE THE BEST ONE THERE EVER WAS---

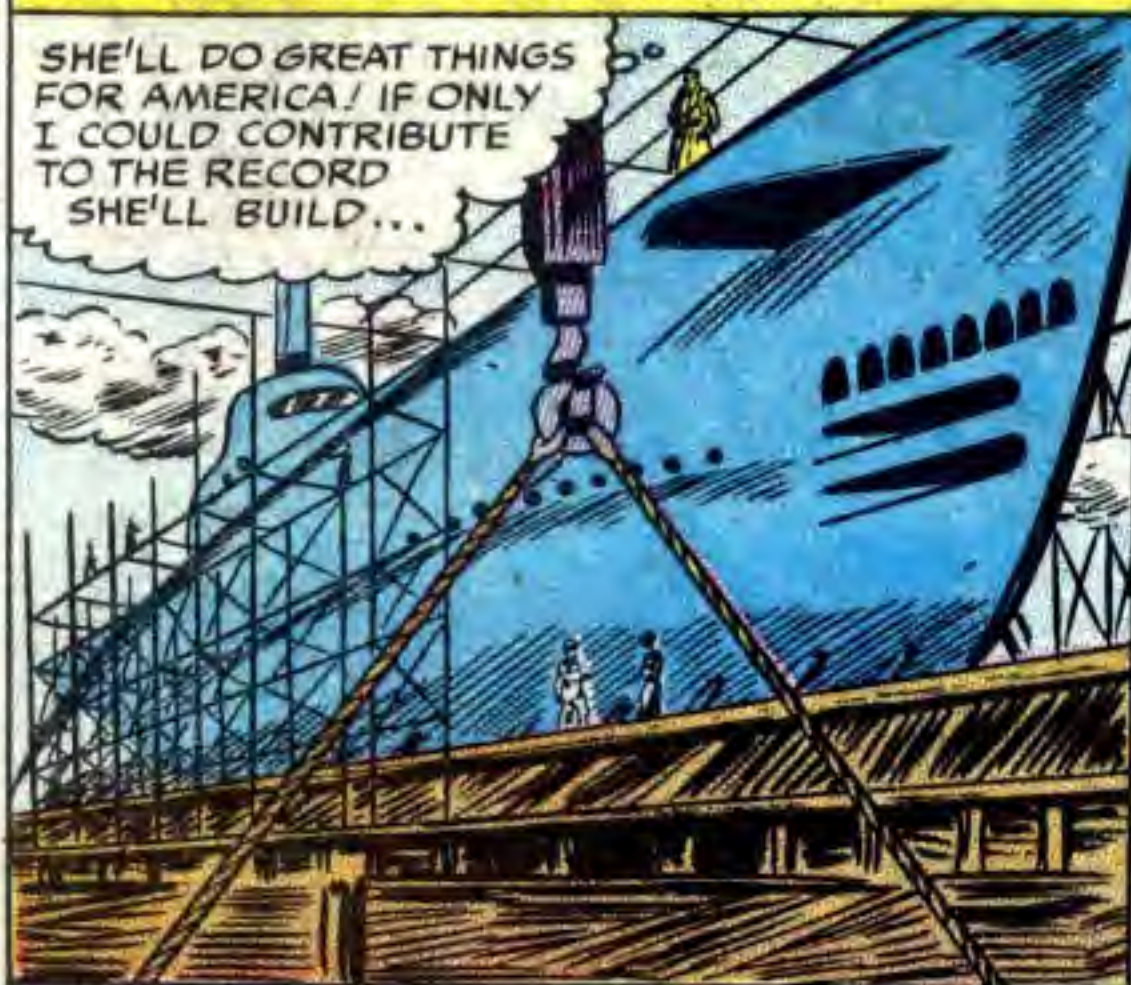
YOU CRACKED THAT CASE WHEN EVERY OTHER MAN I HAD FAILED! THE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T GO FOR FLOWERY SPEECHES, BUT--CONGRATULATIONS, BILL!



THANK YOU, SIR!

YOU'D ALWAYS BEEN AMBITIOUS--ALWAYS DREAMED OF GOING ON TO GREATER THINGS! YOU'D SEEN THE **ATOMIC SUB** UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND A WISH HAD ECHOED IN YOUR HEART--

SHE'LL DO GREAT THINGS FOR AMERICA! IF ONLY I COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE RECORD SHE'LL BUILD...



THAT'S WHY IT SEEMED SO MUCH LIKE A FAIRYTALE-- THAT BOLT-OUT-OF-THE-BLUE APPOINTMENT---

YOU--YOU MEAN YOU'VE PICKED **ME** TO COMMAND THE **ATOMIC SUB**, MR. PRESIDENT?

RIGHT--WITH THE RANK OF **COMMANDER**! YOU'RE A FIGHTER AND A LEADER, **BILL BATTLE**--WHICH IS WHY YOU'LL ALSO SERVE AS HEAD OF A GREAT NEW SECURITY GROUP CALLED THE **ATOMIC COMMANDOS**!



THAT'S HOW YOU'D BECOME AN **ATOMIC COMMANDO**, AND NOW YOUR DAYS WERE FULL ONES! CONSTANT EXERCISE TO KEEP IN TRIM--DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS-- SPEECHES BEFORE BOYS' CLUBS! AND SOMETIMES, **THIS** SORT OF THING! IT HAPPENED WHILE THE DRILL WAS BEING INSTALLED FOR THE **ATOM SUB**'S CENTER-OF-THE-EARTH EXPLOIT---

FUNNY, HOW YOU GET SORT OF A SIXTH SENSE ABOUT THESE THINGS--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT **THAT GUY** I JUST DON'T TRUST!



AND SO, UNOBTUSIVELY, YOU FOLLOW THE MAN! THERE WERE SECRET DEVICES ABOARD THE **ATOMIC SUB**-- YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES--

ER--GUESS I'M IN THE WRONG PLACE!

I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD A **CLICK** AS HE PASSED THAT MACHINE! I WONDER....



AN **ATOMIC COMMANDO** MUST MAKE QUICK DECISIONS! WITH THE WORK SHIFT OVER, YOU DETERMINED TO TRAIL THIS SUSPECT! AN EX-SECRET SERVICE MAN, YOU'RE A MASTER OF QUICK DISGUISE...

I DON'T LIKE THIS ...HE'S GOING INTO A DESERTED NEIGHBORHOOD...HE MAY SPOT ME SHADOWING HIM...



HE DID! IT CALLED FOR A JOB OF ACTING ON YOUR PART...

LISTEN, YOU! ARE YOU FOLLOWIN' ME?

DON'T GET MAD, MISTER! I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD SPARE A DIME---



WELL, I CAN'T! SCRAM, BUM!



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)



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The illustrated instructions furnished are so simple you will master all these tricks at once. It's fun practicing too... for here you have a short cut to magic learning that starts you doing tricks right away. You can't go wrong... it's as easy as A, B, C's... AND... the set of 20 exclusive tricks is almost a gift at this limited offer price of \$1.00.

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YOU HAD TO PICK YOURSELF UP, PRETEND TO RUN IN FEAR-- BUT NOW YOU **KNEW** SOMETHING---



IT MUST BE THAT RAMSHACKLE OLD HEAP HE'S HEADED FOR--THERE'S NO OTHER BUILDING AROUND!

YOU HAD TO GIVE YOUR QUARRY TIME, THEN SNEAK BACK LATER--



THE JOINT IS LOCKED AND BOARDED UP-- HOW CAN I GET IN WITHOUT ANY NOISE? SAY, THAT TELEPHONE POLE--THERE'S A WIRE LEADING ACROSS--

IT'S NOT A JOB FOR A FAINT HEART--IT REQUIRES COOL NERVE AND MUSCULAR DEXTERITY! BUT YOU TAKE IT IN STRIDE-- BECAUSE YOU'RE AN **ATOMIC COMMANDO**---



IT PAYS OFF--YOU MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE--AND YOU'RE QUIET, BECAUSE YOU HEAR VOICES! YOU LISTEN AND WATCH FROM HIDING--AND NOW YOU KNOW THAT YOUR INSTINCT WAS **RIGHT**, AND YOU'RE GLAD THAT YOU CAME HERE--EVEN WHILE YOU WONDER IF YOU'LL EVER DEPART **ALIVE**!



OKAY--HERE ARE THE NEGATIVES OF WHAT YOU SHOT!

FINE! WE'LL PROJECT 'EM AND SEE WHAT GIVES!

THE FILM IS FLASHED ON THE SCREEN--AND YOUR BLOOD CURDLES WITH HORROR AS YOU SEE AMERICA'S CHERISHED ATOMIC SECRETS UNFOLDING THEMSELVES BEFORE ALIEN EYES--

SHARP AS A WHISTLE! WAIT TILL **OUR** SCIENTISTS SEE **THESE**!



YOU STRAIN TO HEAR MORE, BUT SUDDENLY--IT **HAPPENS**! THE VERY THING YOU'D GUARDED SO CAREFULLY AGAINST-- **DISCOVERY**!

SO--A SPY!



IT'S A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL NOW--YOU GIVE IT YOUR EVERYTHING--

WHAT THE--!

COME ON--GET HIM!



EVERY FIGHTING TRICK AN **ATOMIC COMMANDO** EVER LEARNED--AND BROTHER, THAT'S **PLENTY!** YOU GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF YOURSELF--

NOT SO--EASY TO GET, AM I?

SOK!



-- BUT YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN--AND THEY'RE TOO MANY FOR YOU!

THAT SETTLES HIM!

BAM!



YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT! IT'S THE **DEATH SENTENCE**-- AND YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO DELAY IT, IN ORDER TO SAVE UNCLE SAM'S PRECIOUS ATOMIC SECRETS! YOU THINK FAST, DESPERATELY, AND---

SURE--YOU BETTER GET IT OVER WITH **FAST!** IF YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP ME ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET ANY INFORMATION OUT OF ME ABOUT OUR LATEST ATOMIC PLANS, YOU'RE **NUTS!**

HOLD IT! BROTHER, YOU'VE GIVEN US AN **IDEA!**



YOU'D PLANNED IT THIS WAY--EVEN ANTICIPATED EVERY TORTURE THEY'D PUT YOU THROUGH! AND KEEPING YOUR MOUTH SHUT JUST LONG ENOUGH WAS **PART OF THE PLAN!**

HAD ENOUGH? READY TO SPILL IT NOW?

NO! I DON'T CARE--**WHAT** YOU DO--



THEN, AT THE STRATEGIC MOMENT, YOU PRETENDED TO CRACK UNDER THE ORDEAL--

PLEASE--NO--MORE! I'LL TELL YOU-- ANYTHING--

THOSE LATEST ATOMIC PLANS--**WHAT ARE THEY?**



PLAY IT CAREFULLY NOW...PRETEND TO BE COOPERATIVE, BUT SO MUDDLED BY PAIN AND WEAKNESS THAT YOU CAN'T COLLECT YOUR THOUGHTS! IT'S GOT TO WORK, OR THE WHOLE THING FAILS---

IN CASE OF--IMMINENT WAR--ROCKET INSTALLATIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED AT--AT--LORD, I'M SO DIZZY--I CAN'T--CAN'T REMEMBER---

WE'LL TAKE A FIFTEEN MINUTE BREAK AND LEAVE HIM HERE ALONE TO COME TO PROPERLY! COME ON!





YOU'VE GOT **FIFTEEN MINUTES!** USE THEM TO GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT! DON'T THINK YOU CAN PULL ANYTHING--THIS ROOM WILL BE **WELL GUARDED!**



IT HAD WORKED! YOU'RE ALONE, AS YOU'D WANTED TO BE! YOU GALVANIZE YOURSELF INTO ACTION--RIP A FALSE SOLE FROM YOUR SHOE--

THERE!

R-RIP!

AND THERE IT IS, THE PRIDE OF THE SECRET SERVICE--A MINIATURE ELECTRONIC BROADCASTING UNIT, TINY AND COMPACT! IT OPERATES ON THE LATEST THING IN MIRACLE TRANSISTORS--AND NOW IT SPELLS **LIFE** TO YOU!



IT'S TUNED TO THE SECRET WAVELENGTH OF THE **ATOMIC SUB!** YOU KEEP YOUR VOICE LOW, BUT THERE'S A PRAYER IN IT--BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STALL THE SPIES ANY LONGER THAN THE THIRTEEN MINUTES OR SO YOU'VE GOT LEFT---

COMMANDER BILL BATTLE CALLING ATOMIC COMMANDOS! AM IN AN OLD BUILDING STANDING ALONE NEAR END OF ELM STREET--



WILL BE KILLED BY SPIES UNLESS YOU ARRIVE FAST! COMMANDER BILL BATTLE--CALLING ATOMIC COMMANDOS--



OVER AND OVER YOU BREATHE YOUR **S.O.S.** INTO THE TRANSMITTER, HOPING THAT THEY'D PICKED UP YOUR VERY FIRST CALL! THEN YOU HEAR THEM COMING FOR YOU--AND YOU KNOW THE END MAY BE NEAR---

YOU'VE HAD YOUR TIME! READY TO **TALK?**

WHY NOT? THE INFORMATION I'VE GOT FOR YOU IS--



-- GO TO THE DEVIL!



POW!

YOU'RE WEAKENED BY THE ORDEAL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH-- BUT YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT NOT ONLY FOR YOUR LIFE, BUT SOMETHING INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANT-- YOUR COUNTRY'S SECURITY! YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR PRECIOUS MOMENTS--HOPING THAT YOU CAN HOLD OUT UNTIL HELP COMES!

KILL HIM!

CRACK!
THUD!



BUT THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS, AND YOU'VE LOST! AS YOU GO DOWN, YOU KNOW YOU GAVE IT A GAME TRY--AND YOU FIGURE THAT YOUR S.O.S. WAS NEVER EVEN RECEIVED!



THIS IS THE PAYOFF! THE MACHINE-GUNNER'S STANDING OVER YOU NOW, AND YOU'LL SOON BE DEAD! BUT YOUR ONLY REGRET IS FAILURE...

OKAY, SONNY-BOY-- THIS IS IT!



YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES AS A SHOT RINGS OUT! DULLY YOU WONDER WHY YOU FEEL NO PAIN--AND WHO EVER HEARD OF A MACHINE-GUN FIRING JUST ONE SHOT! YOU LEARN THE REASON WHEN THE TOMMY-GUNNER COLLAPSES--DEAD!

OH-HHH!

BANG!



THEN, SUDDENLY, ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD-- BECAUSE YOU'D DELAYED THINGS JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS TO ARRIVE! DOC, CHAMP AND TONY TEAM UP IN A SLAMBANG, WINNING BATTLE AGAINST THE SPIES-- AND YOU JOIN THEM, BILL BATTLE!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT 'EM, BOYS!

BAM!

BANG!



IT'S ALL OVER NOW! YOU HEAVE A WEARY SIGH AND LIGHT A CIGARETTE AS YOUR PALS LEAD THE PRISONERS OFF! YOU'RE A MASS OF BRUISES AND HURT FROM HEAD TO TOE--BUT YOU'RE ALIVE, MAN--AND AMERICA'S ATOMIC SECRETS ARE SAFE! IT'S BEEN NO CINCH--



-- BUT YOU'VE REACHED THE END OF A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ATOMIC COMMANDO!

THE END

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any Style!



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IT WAS FUN AND EASY TO SELL OUR CARDS AND HERE'S THE MAILMAN WITH OUR PRIZES.

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